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THE D.C. GAZETTE

May 4-17, 1970 Vol. I Nr. 14

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— Communications —

On CBS

I read with interest Mr. Shales' revealing article about CBS.

Does he really believe that he is the first to discover that CBS along with the other major networks timidly homogenizes the content of its entertainment programs into pap acceptable to the vast majority of television viewers? What a revelation!

His call for the destruction of CBS is, however, premature. CBS news shows signs of being a salvageable institution by such items as the Mike Wallace interview with Paul Meadlo which finally brought the slaughter at My Lai crashing into the American consciousness.

Reform CBS if you can, drastically if you like, but don't throw out the baby with the bath.

Peter Iovino

Private hearings

THE following letter was sent to City Council Chairman Gilbert Hahn:

I am becoming increasingly discouraged about the City Council's refusal to hold public hearings on issues of vital public importance. This began last summer when the Council refused to hold hearings on the ABM and the Three Sisters Bridge. The United States Court of Appeals has recently held that the lack of hearings on the Bridge was illegal.

More recently, the Council has adopted a five million dollar supplemental budget without hearings and is considering another nineteen million dollar supplemental operating budget with no hearings scheduled. The first supplemental involved major issues such as whether the city should put so huge a percentage of uncommitted, new funds into more policemen. In contrast, the City Council held hearings on the 1969 supplemental budget relating to this identical subject.

In the next two weeks, the Council is considering the DC Transit crisis and a novel (and I believe dangerous) proposal to require urinalysis of all persons arrested for certain crimes. Despite the obvious importance and controversial nature of these issues, the Council is not holding hearings at which the public can testify. Instead, the Council is holding a new kind of hearing at which the Council is willing to hear only the witnesses it chooses. Obviously these are not worthy of the name public hearings.

I strongly protest the Council's retreat from consultation with the public. If this tendency continues, it will result in severely reducing the respect of the public for the Council and for its decisions.

I would be interested if the Council as a whole has voted on these procedures.

Bruce J. Terris
Chmn. Democratic
Central Committee

Still going

AFTER a year of organizing in the anti-war movement, the National Vietnam Moratorium Committee announced that they were disbanding their national organization and apparatus in Washington, DC. The Student Mobilization Committee finds it regrettable that such steps were taken in the face of clear expansion of the war in Laos and Southeast Asia by the US government.

The National Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam plans to continue supporting mass demonstrations against the Vietnam war and other antiwar actions including such campaigns as the Massachusetts Referendum for immediate

total withdrawal of all troops in Vietnam. The April 15 demonstrations made clear in their size and determination that the American people want out of the war now. The expansion of the war into Laos and Cambodia underline the need of continued mass protests in the streets which must continue until all US forces are withdrawn from Southeast Asia.

We are urging all antiwar organizations and leaders in the antiwar movement to jointly call a national conference where the entire antiwar movement can discuss and project further nationally coordinated actions against the war.

Let history record that the American peace movement stepped up their opposition to the US Government's war against the Vietnamese people when the antiwar movement had the potential of organizing the majority of American people in action to end the war.

Carol Lipman and Don Gurewitz
Student Mobilization Committee

A GROUP seeking to end the refusal of local auditorium managers to hold contemporary folk and rock concerts is asking supporters of such concerts to circulate petitions that state, "We, the undersigned, feel there is a definite and immediate need for a concert hall presenting contemporary folk and rock concerts for the youth of the Washington metropolitan area." Mail to 1318 35th St. NW.

THE D.C. GAZETTE

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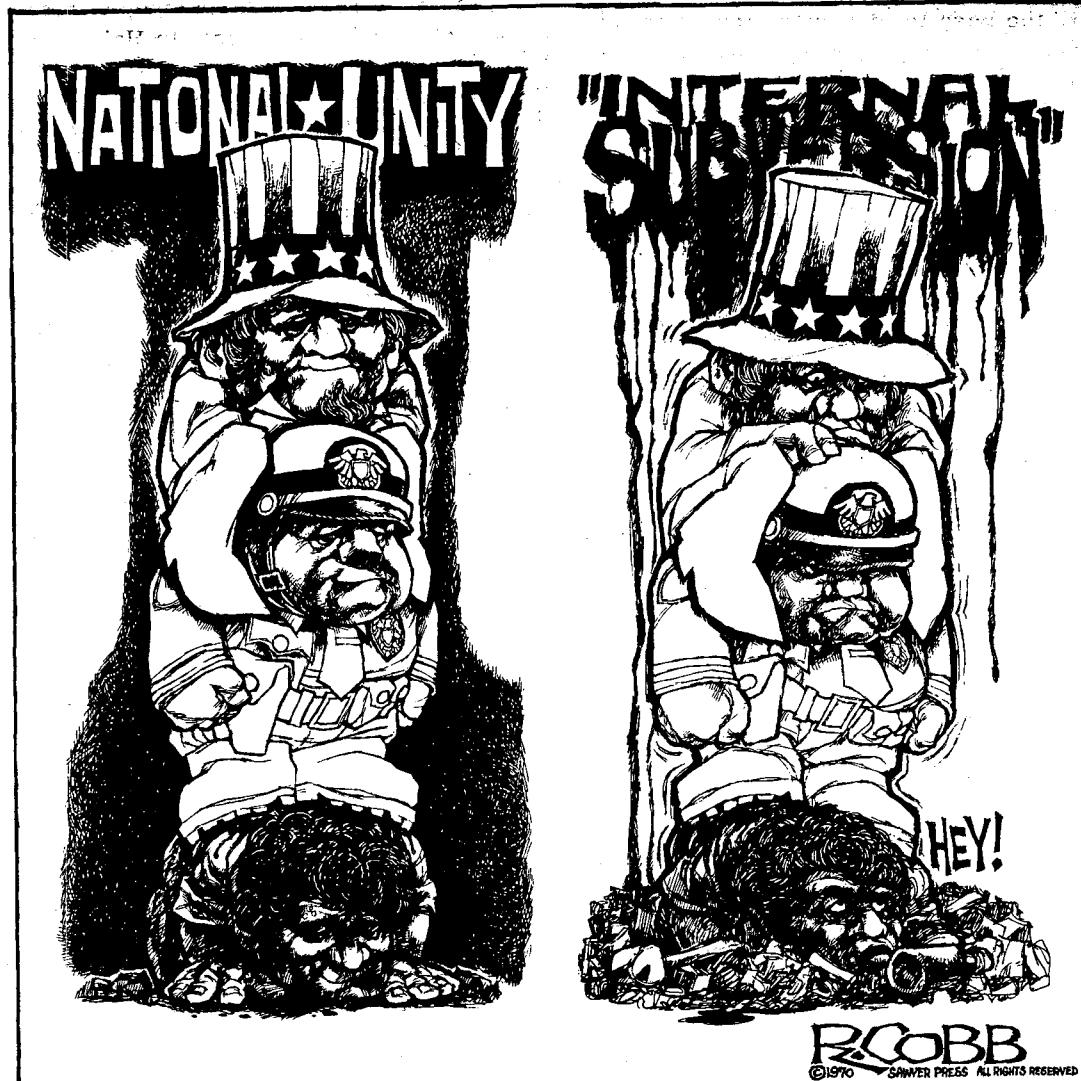
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Samuel Bookatz

Andrea O. Cohen

WHAT I expected was a rather elderly, maybe crotchety, conservative and isolated painter, as I knew nothing about Sam Bookatz except that he had been commissioned as resident White House painter under Franklin Roosevelt and had painted portraits of Very Important People. What I found was an intense, spunky, bushy-browed man who greeted me with: "Have you heard anything final on Carswell?" When I told him the nomination had been rejected just ten minutes ago, he began bubbling and bouncing about his large basement studio in Georgetown cheering: "Senators still have some ethics! People still have consciences! All this power in the hands of so few, it's like mob power, like in World War II. You know people think artists are isolated because they sit alone and paint, but they're not."

Bookatz's experience has been one of involvement and extraordinary fluidity and variation. After a very sound academic art training, first at the Cleveland School of Art and later at the Boston Museum School and in Europe, Bookatz was drafted during the Second World War. In less than a year and a half, he was promoted from junior grade Naval officer to Commander and was asked by Roosevelt to become the White House's first Resident Artist. Working in the Lincoln Room he painted official portraits, which had its fascinations and frustrations. The big boys divulged every sort of interesting information but, too busy to just pose, they worked and dictated and wriggled around during sittings, of which there were often 50 to 60 before a portrait was completed.

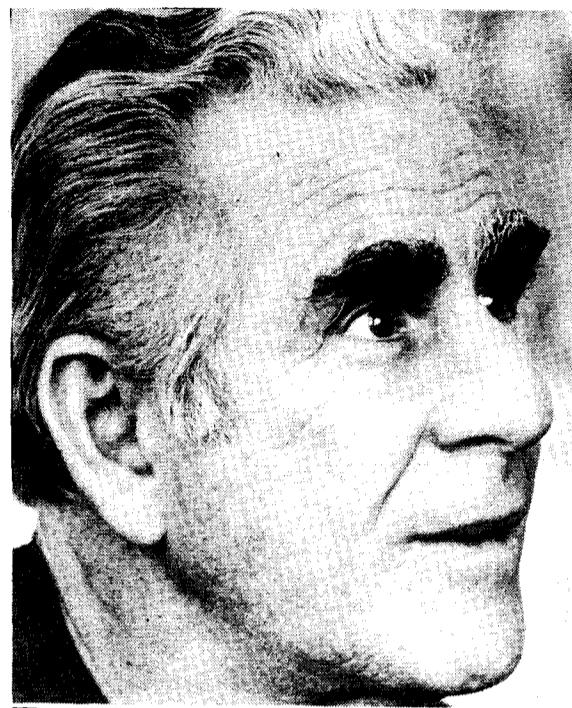
During this time Bookatz was also commissioned to do a series of murals, 20 to 30 feet long, commemorating the history of war art related to the development of field medicine. He thinks the paintings, done during the forties and now official naval property, will outlast his other work. What Bookatz was doing in his White House days had to remain secret. At one point his landlady called the FBI, thinking her roomer, who came and went at all odd hours she knew not where, was a spy.

Sam Bookatz was young in the early '40s, wanted to be in the midst of things and felt a certain guilt safely stashed away, painting in his white walled cocoon, while others were in trenches, many dead. He was transferred to plastic surgery where he did everything from scrubbing to reconstructing faces and limbs. "We all got nauseated by it," he recalls, "removing bandages and finding a kid's face half torn away and knowing how many operations it would take before he'd look just a bit human again."

"You're not an M.D.," I said. "No, no, but I'd had fifteen years of anatomy, part of it at the Harvard Medical School." Bookatz must have learned his lessons well, as he was recalled during the Korean War. He also spent time on psychiatric wards using painting to rehabilitate disturbed men. Who were his most disturbed patients? Psychiatrists.

Although Sam Bookatz began as a portrait painter, he paints in diverse styles in every medium, and also sculpts. The most characteristic thing about him is a refusal to be tied down to any one style or dogmatic scheme. "Every media," he says, "is interesting to me; there's so much in art, I can't just relate to one way and say 'this is it.' I can do six things in one day and they all look different."

Sam Bookatz never abandons structural and formal requirements but his work has become more abstract and experimental.



His range is from very delicate figure drawings to bold frescos, encaustics, stone lithographs and collage. He is daily delighted by new findings. "This little tube of paint," he remarks, "it changes from day to day and never has any sameness about it."

Bookatz's work is an odyssey of his physical and other travels. In Haiti he became fascinated with voodoo and from that experience came haunting, cool colored, emotionally hot figure paintings. He is drawn to religious mythologies, spent a year in the Vatican studying fresco, and paints subjects drawn from the Christian as well as Judaic traditions.

When asked what he thinks of the attempts of today's younger artists, Bookatz's tart reply is that "young has nothing to do with art," that talent is a dime a dozen and must be proven over a long period of time. "We don't only create with emotion," he says, "even little babies have those." Art for him involves a great deal of learning and testing and knowledge, a lot of sweat.

Sam Bookatz regrets that Washington and its critics have not seen fit to acknowledge and encourage any but the "stripers" and minimalist artists. He enjoys both and can adjust to all good art, "a beautiful nude or stripes which are called a nude," but he decries the prismatic vision and single-mindedness of both Washington color painting and the minimalists. "If you don't go along with these groups," he complains, "you're lost. If a novelist were to write the same stories over and over again, what would you think of that?"

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These aren't
the only numbers
that count at your
grocery store. . .

An inquiry into food coding in DC

A report by the Democratic Consumer Action Committee

THE Democratic Consumer Action Committee of the District of Columbia Democratic Central Committee was established in response to the widespread recognition that consumers are often victimized and even defrauded.

The Committee received numerous complaints that supermarkets in the District of Columbia often sell "out of date" foods at regular retail prices. Preliminary investigation showed that each perishable packaged food is stamped with a code, signifying either the date the item was packaged or the date after which the item should not be sold. If a manufacturer uses a packing date code, the store manager is also advised of the "shelf life" of the product. In either event, these codes advise the store personnel of the date after which those items should be removed from the shelf.

The Committee conducted a limited survey on Tuesday, March 31, Thursday, April 2, and Monday, April 6, to determine whether the supermarkets comply with their own codes. A representative number of each of the three largest food chains serving the District of Columbia was surveyed--Safeway (12), Giant (3), A & P (3). The individual stores selected were located in various parts of the city, from predominantly white Northwest to all black Anacostia. The survey was conducted by 12 two-person teams, most of whom were housewives. Each team was provided with a survey sheet describing the several items to be examined, the probable types of codes, and a code sheet on which to record their findings. Ten product lines were surveyed, and except for one national brand of sausage, each product line was the store's own brand. These included milk, eggs, cottage cheese, ground beef, pork chops, chicken, bologna, hot dogs, and bread. When the survey was completed, each team was instructed to identify itself to the store manager (or other appropriate personnel) and ask him for an explanation of the codes.

THE CODES

An inspection of almost any of the subject items reveals several combinations of digits and/or letters, sometimes reflecting not only the "pull" date or the "packing" date, but also the identity of the employee who packed the item. Thus, it was important first to distinguish the "code" from all other symbols on the item and then to ascertain exactly what was meant. This was done by interviews with store personnel.

The codes are extremely complex. They are clearly designed to prevent the ordinary housewife from ascertaining when products should have been removed from the shelf. The same information could be conveyed to store employees more easily by simply pro-

viding the date after which the item should not be sold.

FINDINGS

Of the 18 stores surveyed, only 3 had no "out of date" items. Seven stores had one product line with one or more "out of date" items, and eight stores had from 2 to 5 product lines with one or more "out of date" items. In 15 out of 18 stores, therefore, from 1 to 5 of the 10 basic product lines surveyed had one or more out of date items. In other words, 20% of the product lines in A & P stores, 13% of the product lines in Giant stores, and 16% of the product lines in the Safeway stores had one or more items which should have been removed from the shelf.

MEAT AND POULTRY

The above understates the supermarkets' failure to follow their own codes. For in the case of meat and poultry, their "shelf

life" is generally determined subjectively by the individual meat managers.

Safeway. All chickens are received from the packing plant with a coded date on the label. (These "fresh" chickens can be identified by a red USDA seal on the label.) At the store chickens are re-weighed for water loss, re-packed, re-priced to reflect new weight, and often re-coded. After this point in time there is little unanimity among meat personnel as to their proper shelf life. Most personnel interviewed stated that they assessed the chicken's freshness thereafter by observation.

When survey teams inquired as to the shelf life of pork, they were told: a) pork could not be coded because it was difficult to determine how long the meat was in the store before it was cut; therefore, the manager inspected it daily to determine if it was still fresh; or b) pork was good for 2 days after it was packaged; or c) pork was good



How to break the code

SAFEWAY

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EXAMPLES OF CODES FOUND</u>	<u>INTERPRETATION</u>
MILK	406	4th month, 6th day ; April 6 -- pull date
EGGS	exp. 43	expires April 3 -- pull date
COTTAGE CHEESE	406	April 6 -- pull date
GROUND BEEF	0044	add 1st and last # to get month, middle # is day; April 4 -- pull date
PORK CHOPS	25	2 -- date packed -- April 2 5 -- scale # 02 -- pull date -- April 2 1 -- packer's # 1 -- good until 1st of month 4 -- packed at 4:00 p.m.
	021	
	041	
CHICKEN	see pork	
BOLOGNA	3121	April 21 -- pull date (see ground beef)
HOT DOGS	2172	April 17 -- pull date (see ground beef)
NAT'L. BRAND	1242	March 24 -- packing date; 12 day shelf life
SAUSAGES		
BREAD	1	1. date stamped on end of loaf

A & P

MILK	0402	April 2 -- pull date
EGGS	exp. Ap. 1	April 1 -- pull date
COTTAGE CHEESE	0405	April 5 -- pull date
GROUND BEEF	2X	2 -- Tues.; X -- packer's # Tues. -- date packed
PORK CHOPS	2X	"
CHICKEN	2X	"
BOLOGNA	4029	9 -- packer's # 402 -- April 2 -- pull date
HOT DOGS	0331	March 31 -- pull date
NAT'L BRAND		
SAUSAGE	not in stock	
BREAD	Tues., or date stamped on card- board close	day it goes on shelf

GIANT

MILK	402	April 2 -- pull date
EGGS	Mar. 30	packing date; 7 day shelf life
COTTAGE CHEESE	406	April 6 -- pull date
GROUND BEEF	31	March 31 -- date packed
PORK	31	"
CHICKEN	31	"
BOLOGNA	3181	April 18 -- pull date
HOT DOGS	2202	April 20 -- pull date
NAT'L BRAND		
SAUSAGE	1312	March 31 -- date packaged
BREAD	color ties	red -- Mon., Thurs. white -- Tues., Fri. blue -- Wed., Sat.

1. Contrary to consumers' popular belief that bread is delivered fresh in morning and sold by evening, it was learned that bread is considered a two day item, and that bread delivered any morning is considered fresh until close of business the following day.

packing date and the shelf life of the product starting from this packing date.

If our recommendations are adopted, housewives will have the information they need to make intelligent decisions. Furthermore, housewives themselves could police the dates set by the supermarkets when products should be removed from the shelf by simply refusing to buy products after that date. This would ensure that store managers would stop either deliberately or negligently trying to sell products when they should no longer be sold.

It is sometimes said that, if housewives are given this information, prices will rise because they will only buy the most recent items and leave the others to spoil. However, stores can overcome this possibility by better inventory practices which result in goods being sold more quickly after they are put on the shelf and by not mixing goods of significantly different ages on the same shelf. When some goods are not sold promptly, they can and should be reduced in price to allow housewives to decide whether they are willing to purchase slightly older but still fresh goods at lower cost.

In any event, the housewife is entitled to all the information to make her own decision. It is time to end the paternalism by which businessmen decide that the American consumer, for his supposed own benefit, should be denied information to make an intelligent decision. Just as we have had Truth-in-Lending and Truth-in-Packaging, it is time for Truth-in-Dating.

We therefore urge the supermarkets to replace their codes immediately with clear, readable dates. But it is also essential that the government act to ensure that all supermarkets comply. We urge that the Federal Trade Commission prohibit, under its present powers, coding as a deceptive and unfair trade practice (we intend to present a petition to the Commission in the near future seeking a regulation to this effect); that Congress pass a statute for the entire country requiring that the date for removing perishable goods from the shelf be clearly marked on the package; and that the City Council ascertain whether it has the power to adopt such a regulation for the District of Columbia.

3 days after it was packaged; or d) pork was good up to 4 days after it was packaged.

The survey teams received similar responses when they inquired into ground meat. Most were told that ground meat (not the pre-packaged variety) is good for one day only. One survey team, however, was told that it is good for 3 days; when the color turns the manager knows it is bad--then it goes on sale.

A & P. All meat and poultry codes reflect the day the item was packed (or re-packed) and put on the shelf.

One manager, referring to all types of meat, stated that he daily looks at the meat and pulls whatever does not look good. When his attention was called to some greenish tinted meat, he admitted to not having inspected the meat that day. This same manager stated that he did not reduce the price of ground beef--if he thinks it is bad he pulls it out of the case, re-works it, and re-packages it. "If it's too bad" he throws it away.

Giant. All meat and poultry codes reflect the day the item was packed (or re-packed) and put on the shelf.

One surveyor was told that poultry is removed from the shelf when it begins to smell, or when it turns yellow or reddish, or when little growths appear.

GENERAL REMARKS

A survey team was told by a Safeway store manager that a local poverty organization had taken a code survey within the last two months. The manager also stated that the survey was discussed at a managers' meeting, and all managers were cautioned to keep their stock up to date. Thus, there is reason to believe that the Committee's survey was conducted under artificial conditions favorable to the supermarkets.

The personnel in all the stores, with one exception, were polite, courteous and cooperative. That one exception occurred in a Giant, where the surveyor was stopped by the manager and informed that he would need permission before he could continue his survey.

At least with respect to Safeway, the salaries both of the store managers and of the department heads are predicated upon their achieving a certain quota of sales. If they exceed that quota, they receive a bonus. According to Safeway personnel, department heads can not return items to the warehouse for credit. Perishable items not sold are discarded at a loss to the particular department manager. It is therefore to the manager's advantage to sell all items in his inventory, regardless of expiration date.

There was no clear pattern to the abuses found. There were abuses in the stores in white upper-middle class as well as poor black neighborhoods. There were abuses in the older, smaller, less well-maintained stores as well as in the larger, more modern ones. Two of the stores, located in a predominantly black area, had no "out of date" items. However, the three stores with the worst abuses were in Anacostia and Cardozo.

CONCLUSIONS

This survey was not meant to be an exhaustive study of coding practices. It did demonstrate, however, that supermarkets deliberately attempt to conceal information from the housewife which she needs in order to make intelligent decisions concerning the products she buys. The survey further found that the chain supermarkets in the District of Columbia frequently fail to remove items from the shelves according to their own estimate when these items should be removed. The staleness of perishable foods--particularly meats and dairy products--concerns not just the quality and taste of these products but the health of adults and children. The abuses uncovered in this survey therefore endanger the health of District residents throughout the city.

The Committee strongly recommends that the practice of coding be abolished. In its place, we recommend that the store place on each perishable item either (1) a clearly stamped expiration date after which the item should not be sold or (2) a clearly marked

The media

The WETA mess

Thomas Shales

THE big bazoo over at WETA is such a scramble, I for one hate to even get involved in it. But it does seem like The Thing to talk about right now.

My first reaction to news that William J. McCarter had cancelled WETA's telecast of an NET documentary, "Who Invited Us?", which raised questions about US foreign policy, was that Mr. McCarter should immediately and dramatically have been fired.

Slightly closer investigation revealed, however, that the people who could fire McCarter were probably the actual ones who ordered the show cancelled in the first place. Or rather, the one: Max Kampelman, legal magnate, would-be politician and chairman of the board of The Greater Washington Educational Television Association, Inc.

Rumor has it -- and somewhat unsubstantiated rumor, I admit -- that McCarter is Kampelman's puppet and WETA-TV is Kampelman's plaything. Whatever, WETA had scarcely weathered one crisis when another came along. William Woestendiek was fired as editor of the new "Newsroom" series plainly because his wife had taken the job of Martha Mitchell's press secretary (which reminds me, if Adolph Hitler had had better press relations, might he not be more fondly thought of today?)

Official and unofficial Washington flew into outrage over this little number. The Washington Post, which didn't give a damn about the cancellation of "Who Invited Us?" and its ominous implications, was huffing and puffing about this insult to freedom of the whatever.

In theory, yes, it is a dirty trick to fire somebody because his wife is involved in partisan politics. (Maybe this will teach women to stay in the kitchen where they belong!). But there are some sticky-wicket mitigating facts.

First, Woestendiek was not setting the world on fire with "Newsroom." The program was a bore, and he was mediocre on the air, so bland and meek as to seriously limit his own authority and warp the guise of professionalism.

Second, considering the tendency of the Nixon administration to threaten, frighten and sick-the-Greek on the press, and considering the fact that John Mitchell, woe to us, has the easiest access to Richard Nixon's ear, and considering the fact that Martha Mitchell has been anything but a silent major-ette, the firing of Woestendiek, however clumsily and tactlessly it was perpetrated, might be justifiable on those conflict-of-interest grounds after all.

It looks suspiciously, though, like Channel 26, aware of the credibility loss suffered with its idiotic and high-handed "Who Invited Us?" decision, was trying to redeem lost honor with a gesture it thought would re-assure liberals and, at the same time, do away with an unsatisfactory staff member.

The firing of Woestendiek should in no way be construed as a sign that WETA's repressive policies are being relaxed, though. Indeed, Variety hit the nail where it smarts when it noted recently that WETA is just as unlikely to come up with tough-stuff, nitty-gritty commentary and expose as the commercial stations are -- perhaps even more unlikely, considering the fact that WETA's board of trustees looks like a Who's Who of the After-60 Set. God, they've got every damn bank, business and corporation in town represented.

Anyway, here sits WETA, which used to brag about being the best-subscribed, most-watched public TV station in the country, suddenly friendless. Even The Washington Post is mad... Not its TV critic Larry Lau...

rent, of course. He is the loyal champion of broadcast management. But the Post itself has stuck out a big grey elephant's paw to give Channel 26 a smack.

One local journalist-academician thinks it's because the paper is resentful of WETA's raid on the Post staff for talent. Woestendiek's replacement is, in fact, a former Postman.

(Now this paragraph doesn't have much to do with the story, but I might never get another chance to mention it. The Post is such a dummy and so desperate to look a silly millimeter more hip, that it recently had William C. Woods review a TV performance by The Doors on Channel 26's NET series "Critique." What Woods and the Post failed to notice was that the 'new' show they were reviewing was a year old -- a rerun. The moral is: reading about rock in The Washington Post is like looking for leather gear at Brooks Brothers.)

Now, back to this week's story. As you remember, William McCarter had just told a seminar on broadcasting at The American University that he really didn't see any difference between public television and commercial television. A former and short-time WETA staff member has said, in addition, that McCarter is not above proclaiming to his comrades at 26 that he could darn well be in commercial broadcasting himself if he had such a hankering.

Good for him! So why doesn't he get out? And right after he submits his overdue resignation, maybe Max Kampelman could exile himself and the rest of his financier pals off the station's ruling junta and back into business where they belong, leaving communication to the communicators and public TV -- get this radical idea -- TO THE PUBLIC.

No, none of this is going to be in tomorrow's Post. Things will stay generally the same. Yes, Channel 26 has a few little glories to its credit, but not enough to acclaim it as the salvation of the medium. "Sesame Street?" Oh yeah, that. And "The Forsythe Saga," that stuffy old soap opera. Meanwhile, the new WETA-FM radio station has its little troubles even getting on the air. Its transmitter just doesn't seem willing to work. Maybe it knows something we don't. Maybe it thinks it just won't be worth the electrical effort.

This may not sound like much to Max Kampelman, but I paid fifteen dollars for this year's output of Channel 26, and the only things I've really enjoyed so far have been Kukla Fran and Ollie and parts of that Denver trial. I really don't see why I should be paying even fifteen cents, anyway, to support yet another PR agency for the Establishment.

As for the enormously unimpressive Mr. McCarter, I only met him once, I think, and that was at a Channel 26 press briefing on this year's season. Great preparation had been made by the station staff to see to it their program ended at exactly 2 o'clock, for the convenience of reporters who had to be elsewhere soon after that.

The presentation moved right along with short talks and taped excerpts, and secretaries called cabs for us to be there at 2. At exactly 2 o'clock, with the presentation complete, William J. McCarter started to talk. He repeated everything everybody else had said; he told us nothing new. He mumbled on and on in a grey monotone for twenty minutes. I had to pay the cab driver extra for waiting.

My complaint is not the money that cost, but what is says about McCarter. I remember thinking at the time, Boy, this guy is certainly not Mr. Imagination; he must be a good administrator.

Now it appears he isn't even that. Things are rotten indeed in the state of Channel 26. The Woestendiek affair is probably, after all, the least of them.

Edgewood Arsenal

Chris Robinson

A DISPLAY in the Edgewood Arsenal Museum reads, "Chemical and biological warfare (CBW) may be used against man, his animals or his crops -- delivery can be made by overt or covert methods." Next to this caption is a picture of two men huddled in the back of an "ABC Laundry" truck which is spewing poison gas from its exhaust pipe.

The museum is located at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, about 20 miles northeast of Baltimore, on a 10,000-acre base which has been called "The Nerve Gas Capitol of America." The arsenal is the central command post for all the US chemical warfare activity, with facilities valued at close to \$200 million.

The area surrounding Edgewood, known as the Gunpowder Peninsula, was taken from the Susquehanna Indians by Lord Baltimore in 1663 and granted to Thomas O'Daniel, the first white settler. The area became a center of ruling class social activities, centering around its famed rod and gun clubs.

However, with the start of World War I, President Wilson decreed that Gunpowder Peninsula would be placed under the command of the US Army Ordnance Department, and factories were constructed for the manufacture and filling of gas shells.

In June, 1918, Edgewood Arsenal was transferred to the newly-formed Army Chemical Warfare Service, and by November it had been transformed from grassy fields into a major war industry consisting of 558 buildings, 15 miles of roadway, 36 miles of railroad, two water supply systems, a complete waste disposal system, three hospitals, a research laboratory, and acres of steel and tile shell dumps and storage magazines.

The Chemical Warfare Service and Edgewood Arsenal suffered lean years after 1920. But with the beginning of World War II, production once again increased, new facilities were constructed, and employment rose to a peak of 3,400 military personnel and 10,700 civilians.

At the end of World War II, the Chemical Warfare Service became the Chemical Corps and Edgewood Arsenal shifted from production and manufacturing to research and development. Edgewood's first assignment was to analyze GB, a nerve gas which had been captured from the Germans. Specifically, the arsenal was to find out how and why the gas worked and how its effects could be prevented. The preventative aspect sounds beneficial until it's understood that Chemical Corps officers told Congress that no CBW weapon is effective without an antidote or vaccine.

In order to develop such an antidote the Edgewood scientists began to test lethal agents on humans for the first time. These human guinea-pigs are volunteers drawn from continental US military bases. Their reasons for volunteering range from avoiding active combat to being stationed nearer their girl friends or families.

Through the use of these volunteers an antidote (atropine) was developed in the early 1950's production of GB. In later research a more powerful nerve gas (VX) was developed, tested, and put into production. The current program of human tests centers around the development of an incapacitating psycho-chemical (BZ) which causes headaches, giddiness, disorientation, hallucination, and sometimes maniacal behavior -- in other words, a bad trip. This gas had already been tested in Vietnam, but apparently there were problems which necessitated further research at Edgewood.

Edgewood is a fairly open base, but the...

visitor would be advised to look pretty straight if planning to drive around. The museum is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and provides a good excuse to drive around while looking for the museum.

The two oldest buildings at Edgewood are "Quiet Lodge," constructed in 1720 as the home of the Presbury family, and one of the oldest Methodist Churches in the US, constructed in 1773 by America's first Methodist bishop. The Presbury home is now used as a grenade storage facility, currently not in use.

Edgewood's research facility began in 1918 with a 21-room laboratory, now known simply as Building 30. Until last year, Building 30 housed the arsenal's Quality Assurance Laboratory.

This lab is part of a major expansion program recently completed by Edgewood. The other parts of this expansion include the \$3.5 million Amos A. Fries Building, which houses advanced studies of chemical compounds and materials (we are told that includes napalm, magnesium and phosphorous weapons recently developed for Vietnam), and the \$3 million John R. Wood Building, which contains the clinical research Division and its associated testing of human volunteers.

Just behind the Fries Building is a highly classified compound surrounded by an electrified fence. This building has no name, but arsenal employees familiar with its operation call it simply "The Nerve Gas Building." Less than a quarter of a mile away is another fenced-in area containing underground bunkers in which the poison gases are stored.

But the most interesting part of any tour, because it is the only building open to the public, is Edgewood's museum full of horror weapons. The museum appears to be an old barracks turned into a warehouse for 5,000 "items" dating back to 1890. In this serene atmosphere the public can view bombs, flame throwers, spray tanks, fire bombs, hand grenades, chemical rockets, smoke generators, and even a JB2 Bomb (the American version of the German "Buzz Bomb").

There is also an enormous display of "defensive" equipment, including decontamination materials, hundreds of different kinds of gas masks, and examples of protective clothing. There are displays of a 1941 German gas mask for camels, and the current American gas mask for dogs (to be issued "one per tactical dog").

The museum houses the original equipment used by the Germans in 1941 to produce the first nerve gas (Sarin), as well as examples of the now-famous "Vietcong Gas Mask," used by the NLF as protection against US chemical attacks.

The visitor is shown a 1961 propaganda film in the museum's small theater. The film, called "The Chemical Research and Development Laboratory Story," claims that Edgewood's function is to provide a "modern defense capability to the Armed Forces." Vietnam has disproved all that.

Perhaps the equipment that will horrify the visitor most is that which was meant for use on the home front. In 1940 Edgewood designed the Mickey Mouse Gas Mask for children. (Many English children grew up wearing them.) It consists of a rubber mask of the cartoon idol with a plastic filter jammed in his mouth. There is also an example of a crib which is current issue. It is supposed to be able to protect infants from nerve gases.

For that's our vulgar error, isn't it,
When we see nothing but the law and order,
The formal interdiction from the
garden,
A legend of the sword, and quite forget
The rusting apple core we're clutching
still.
-- W.H. Auden, written in 1936

PRINTED IN U.S.A. 1968

ON STAGE

The Mt. Vernon players

Sally Crowell

THE Mt. Vernon Players, located in the theater of the United Methodist Church at 900 Mass. Ave. is one of the oldest community amateur groups in the Washington area. Formed in 1937, the group has continued to serve the church and its community even when most of its original congregation left the inner city. The players, under the leadership of Robert Gray, who is employed by the church, heads their Department of Drama and directs three shows a year in addition to staging religious programs at Christmas and Easter. Members of the congregation continue to give audience support for the productions as well as working back stage and on costumes, etc. During the summer the church plans to offer a workshop program in lighting, make-up and acting in the hope of interesting young and old

alike to actually perform in the plays offered by the group. At present, the church serves as a showcase for a community of actors who enjoy performing in amateur theater and under the direction of Robert Gray.

The church asks that the plays chosen to be presented be in keeping with the teachings of the church; so if you're looking for some live entertainment without an M or X rating, you might enjoy the production of Seventeen, to be presented this month. Seventeen is the simple story of a simple community in which simple people live simple lives. And in Seventeen, at least, there is in the simplicity a certain charm. Productions are on May 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23. For reservations and information, call DI7-1484.

Capitol East

THE Marines, who last year tried to extend their barracks across Eye St., taking a row of low income houses, are on the move again. They have asked Congress for money for the barracks expansion and the National Capital Planning Commission has notified the Capitol East Housing Council that it will consider the matter shortly. Last year the plan was defeated by a persistent and well-organized drive headed by the housing council, with the help of some key people on the Hill. The council is preparing to do battle again and, as a first step, has asked the NCPC whether it plans to live up to its past commitment to hold hearings on the question and to seek alternative sites.

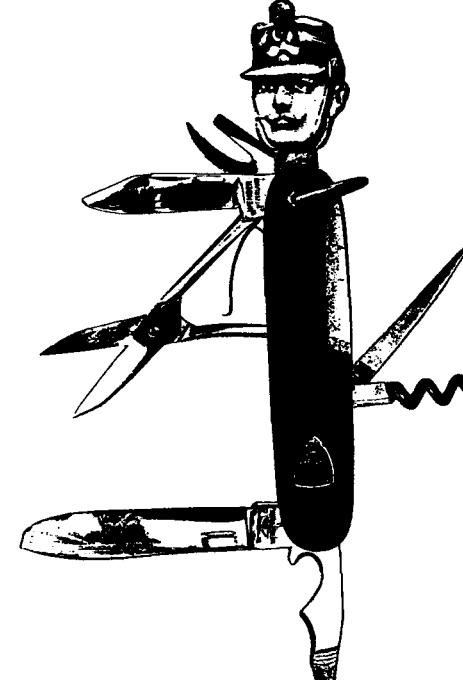
THE Marines cause other problems in Capitol East. One of them is air pollution. The furnace of the Marine Barracks on cold days regularly belches black smoke. But, as in the case of DC Transit busses, nobody does anything about it.

CAPITOL East community leaders who attended a meeting with Human Resources Director Phil Rutledge report that Rutledge assured them that a representative of grass roots Capitol East would be appointed to the library board of trustees.

THE Edmonds-Peabody PTA board has moved to seek the transfer of school principal Florence Radcliffe. Mrs. Radcliffe has long been an opponent of persons seeking reforms at the Near NE school.

NOW it looks like the Capitol East Natatorium won't open 'til fall.

THE Capitol East Community Organization has added four new board members: Mrs. Janie Boyd, Mrs. Wallacetine Curtis, Bill Jones and Mrs. Bernice Ferrell.



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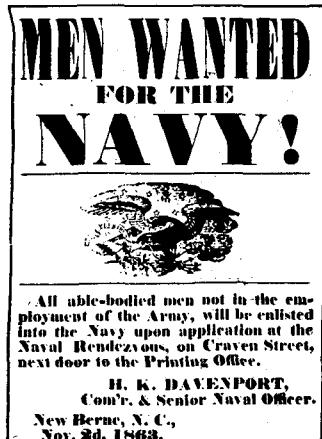
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Seaman Roger Priest vs. the US Navy

Malcolm Kovacs

ONE year ago this month Seaman Roger Priest put out the first issue of OM, a short but pointedly anti-war and anti-militarist GI paper. That first issue has been followed by several others. They include criticisms of the military-industrial war machine and its political supporters. In addition to articles by Priest there are numerous quotes (from Phil Ochs to Nixon), poems and cartoons attacking the war and the military. One year later, Roger Priest has been convicted in a Navy general court-martial of "promoting disloyalty and disaffection" through OM.

Roger Priest is a rather quiet 26-year-old seaman who majored in journalism at the University of Houston, where he was mildly political, a moderate liberal at best. He enlisted in the Navy in part to avoid Vietnam. Until his notoriety Priest was stationed in a fairly soft job as an information aide in the Pentagon. What radicalized Roger Priest? Roger says it was the US Navy and its attempt to dehumanize those in it and outside it. Priest's paper shows he has also been much influenced by anti-war and anti-establishment feelings which are now held both inside and outside the military.

Priest's activism began at the time of the Counter-Inaugural here in January, 1968. Shortly thereafter he began planning the first issue of OM. He also changed his GI life insurance policy to make the pacifist War Resister's League the beneficiary--and he urged other sailors and soldiers to do the same. Priest has also attacked some of the military's sacred civilian heroes, like Melvin Laird ("People's Enemy Number One") and Mendel Rivers, the potent and reactionary congressional chief of the war lobby. It was Rivers who wrote the Navy after Priest's verbal attack, asking them to silence Priest. The Navy has unsuccessfully and incompetently attempted to oblige the South Carolina Democrat. They have spent almost a year in preparing the case and charges against Priest, using some 25 Navy intelligence officers to monitor and attempt to entrap him. While some agents followed him around Washington, others tapped his phone and still others went through his garbage with the cooperation of the DC Sanitation Department.

Using the old and discredited technique of listing many charges in hopes of getting a conviction on at least some of them, Priest's boss, Rear Admiral George Koch, commandant of the Washington Naval Station, drew up the original charges and convened the court after picking the attorneys for both sides. Koch will also exercise his authority to review the case before it goes to higher Navy and civilian courts.

The trial came after six of the original fourteen charges were dropped. Priest's excellent lawyer, civil liberties defender David Rein (who is taking no fee in this case), moved unsuccessfully to have all charges dropped on the basis of a Supreme Court decision prohibiting the military from court-martalling GI's for offenses that were not service-connected. Priest publishes OM while off-duty, with his own funds and facilities.

The charges against Priest ranged from soliciting desertion, committing sedition, interfering with loyalty, morale and discipline, to promoting disloyalty and disaffection. The Navy wanted to put Priest away for 30 years.

The general court-martial (a military trial) was held in a small court room at the generally deserted and barren Anacostia Naval Station. The wood-panelled court room featured attractively-framed large color photographs of navy warships on the high seas. Four young sailors in full ceremonial dress--complete with white dress gloves--stood guard at each door. Occasionally during the trial their smiles indicated their apparent sympathy with Priest rather than with their Navy bosses. At one table sat the three Navy prosecuting attorneys led by one Thomas Jefferson Jimmerson, a befuddled fellow who must have been chosen for his patriotic name rather than for his abilities as a prosecutor. With him were two young zealots, Lt. Chesney Ford and Lt. John McGrath. Facing them were defendant Roger Priest, his two young Navy attorneys, Lts. Brown and Bailey, and civilian attorney Rein. Then there were the five men on the court-martial jury, four of them Navy career officers. (Priest was not tried by a jury of his peers i.e. fellow enlisted men, but by officers.) Next to the jury sat the military judge, Captain Raymond Perkins, a ribbon-decked military man who knew what his job was: to help the Navy silence Roger Priest while maintaining the pretense of a fair trial.

The partisanship of the judge was matched only by the desperation of the prosecution. Both conspired to make sure that Roger's witnesses weren't allowed to say much of anything. Thus, the virtual exclusion of testimony by Senator Gruening, General Shoup, Rear Admiral True, Phil Ochs, Roger's parents and others.

Ironically, it was a key prosecution witness who turned out to be the best defense witness. 35-year-old school teacher Mrs. Winifred Cockfield had read about Priest in the Post last spring and called him. After some intense discussions with Priest, she asked for copies of OM which she gave to military officer friends. She also left some at the Ft. Myer commissary. "Why did you distribute OM?" she was asked. She explained that the war had been a terrible mistake which people, including military people, needed to question and think about. Relating her experience as a school teacher and "grey lady" who had worked with wounded soldiers back from Vietnam, she said it was time people in this country "stopped doing things blindly." OM, she explained, is intended to make people stop and think about what they're doing and what's being done in their name.

Mrs. Cockfield, it should be added, is a military wife and daughter. Her father is a now-retired vice admiral. Her husband is the skipper of the USS Nautilus. She implied that the Navy had threatened her husband's job if she continued to distribute OM. Mrs. Cockfield's testimony brought out clearly the depth and sincerity of strong anti-war feelings even by some higher-ups in the military.

The prosecution probably sunk to its lowest level during the trial when Lt. McGrath gave the summation of the Navy's case. Rather than the customary summary of legal arguments and evidence, McGrath attempted to link OM to deaths and riots. OM, McGrath said, is being written after three major assassinations and riots in many cities. Because it is directed at some three million armed men, it is clearly dangerous. McGrath quoted a statistic to the effect that there was a military desertion every ten minutes.

Attorney Rein asked for a mistrial on the basis of these "grossly inflammatory and prejudicial remarks" which amounted to a "tirade." Not surprisingly, Judge Perkins refused the request.

In his summation Rein reminded the jurors that they had taken an oath when they became commissioned officers to the Constitution of the US and not to individual office holders. Supporting this oath means supporting the First Amendment rights of "free and full discussion of public issues." Rein went on to quote from a Nixon speech at the Air Force Academy where the President verbally endorsed the rights of a soldier as a free citizen.

Throughout almost all the trial, Rein was amazingly restrained and polite in the face of many adverse rulings by the judge. This was probably due to Rein's quite conscious decision that a "reasonable" approach would make the best impression on the military men on the jury. This strategy may have worked. Priest's sentence by the five man court amounts to a big defeat for the Navy brass. Despite the heavy penalties demanded by the Navy, Priest was reprimanded and given a bad conduct discharge but no jail sentence.

The Roger Priest trial is important in two different but related ways. First, it is a major test case to determine to what extent the First Amendment rights of civilians apply to military men. (In Roger Priest's opinion, "There is no way you can abuse the constitutional right of free speech, except by not exercising it.") In a new book, Military Justice Is To Justice As Military Music Is To Music, author Robert Sherrill contends that military justice is a contradiction in terms in political cases. In a Life magazine review of the book, Harvard Law professor Alan Dershowitz says that "Sherrill's conclusions are plainly correct where the military brass sees itself as having a real stake in the outcome (which) is often communicated --or at least understood by--members of the court-martial. These judges and juries are soldiers whose advancements... depend on the recommendation of their commanding officer. There can be no real justice where the career of the judge is in the hands of a commanding officer with a stake in the outcome of the case."

Second, Priest's OM is part of a growing movement within the military to revolutionize the purposes and structure of the military in our society. The growing GI movement is taking many different forms: from the widespread and illegal use of grass to the increasing numbers of GI activists, newspapers, coffeehouses, revolts and desertions. More and more soldiers are no longer willing to dehumanize themselves and others in order to protect the profits and prestige of the American empire. Roger Priest is just one of many such voices in the military who are demanding that the military services be democratized and that they serve liberation movements rather than oppressors.

A BASIC primer on ecology has been published by San Francisco's People Press. This 48-page illustrated pamphlet is entitled The Earth Belongs to the People: Ecology and Power. To obtain a copy, send 75¢ to People's Press, 968 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110.

Through Brookland

Therese Belanger

BROOKLAND'S trees shade large Victorian homes, small 1930-ish bungalows, undefined stucco and frame happenings, as well as typically DC rowhouses with their welcoming front porches and never-changing floor plans. To outsiders, the trees and parks -- including wooded Fort Bunker Hill and the landscaped Franciscan monastery gardens -- reflect a small town; to insiders the small town feeling persists, mostly because of its sense of community, of a real and viable community -- though the more "in" one gets, the more one perceives some of the underlying conflicts.

Not surprising, considering Brookland's hardly homogenous population. It is a difficult place to keep up with the Joneses; there just aren't any. One can make a few generalizations: most people are black; many of the whites are Catholic, past or present students or faculty members of Catholic University, or "old timers" who remained after the great white exodus in the 1950's. More will be known about the Brookland population after the coming survey planned by the University's sociology department and the Brookland Coordinating Council. The latter represents 22 civic, educational and religious organizations in the Brookland area.

Brookland is not a prestige neighborhood with well-heeled whites in renovated old homes and poor blacks in rundown tenements. As a matter of fact, quite a few of the larger houses could stand a restoration job. James Welsh in a recent series in the Washington Star "All about living in the Washington area" refers to Brookland as "a fine old area of pleasant, reasonably attractive homes. . . . Although the white population has hardly been increasing. . . . there is economic stability and a fair measure of integration." Elsewhere he says that "although prices are rising, the east-of-the-park values remain, house for house, the best in the area."

But Washington's reputation being what it is, most people are more concerned about crime than trees, people or real estate values. Yes, Brookland has its share of crime, but according to the Police Department's Crime Analysis Section, "robberies and burglaries are relatively sparse as compared to the rest of the city."

Several Brookland residents are rather proud of their arrest record. Bruce Weaver, president of the Brookland Civic Association, was arrested August '68 for protesting the DC City Council's illegal vote to build a freeway system. The charges were eventually dropped, as were the charges against the Reverend John Mote, pastor of Brookland

Methodist Church, professor Thomas P. Rooney of Catholic University and Joseph Coleman who were arrested in June '69 for trying to restore to livable condition the 69 homes illegally confiscated by the city for the North Central Freeway. Right now, in preparation for the annual Martin Luther King Memorial Arts Festival, the City Council has granted permission for a painting of the deteriorating homes.

More recently, Joe Coleman, along with Brookland resident John Swinglish, were among the Shrine Six who were arrested for unlawful entry when they were distributing peace leaflets outside the Shrine -- these charges too were dropped. John Swinglish is the Chairman of the Washington Chapter of the Catholic Peace Fellowship with headquarters at Emmaus House on 12th street in the heart of Brookland. This is also the residence of well known Catholic University sociologist Msgr. Paul Furley.

It is impossible to divorce Brookland from Catholic University, although this might please some people on both sides of the fence, or rather tracks, for the B&O railroad and soon the Metro, effectively divides the main campus from the community. Even after the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the faculty assembly had formally rejected the proposed freeway, the university still tried to remain neutral. Some Brooklanders suspect that the administration would rather enjoy a freeway-buffer between it and "crime ridden black Brookland." The students feel otherwise. One of their grievances voiced during a recent demonstration against the administration was this detrimental lack of community involvement.

There are other issues. At the Brookland Courts, two small apartment buildings off 12th street, the tenants threatened with another rent increase or eviction, have banded together into a Tenants Committee, backed by free legal advice from a university lawyer and the full support of the Coordinating Council. At present they are holding the rent increase in escrow until the management makes the necessary adjustments.

New families find Brookland a quiet and friendly neighborhood with shaded sidewalks for mothers to walk the trike and stroller set to the stores on its very own Main street: 12th street NE from Michigan to Rhode Island Avenue. Besides a bank and post office, two Safeways, a People's and a High's, there are hardware and variety stores, cobblers, barbers and grocers, assorted carryout shops and an art supply store. Some of these are black owned.

Schools, too, are within walking distance. St. Anthony's elementary school, with a

reading program modeled after the ungraded Jopalin plan, is one of the few truly integrated schools in the Washington area. The parochial high school, equally integrated and rightly proud of its Tony basketball team, is the only Catholic coed high school in the area. Nearby are the private Campus School, once the lab school of the University's education department, now parent owned and operated, no longer Catholic but "ecumenical," and St. Anselm's Abbey School, a college prep school for boys.

Typically, the public schools have what amounts to de facto segregation with only a sprinkling of white children. Their academic reputation varies. Noyes, the soon to be replaced Brookland school, and Slowe are in Brookland proper. A fair number of children are zoned in Bunker Hill in adjoining Michigan Park, and Burroughs in Woodridge. This incidentally is not the slum ghetto school some newspapers make it out to be when describing Tricia Nixon's volunteer tutoring.

The "potentially criminal under-six" are served by the New City Montessori School, and a cooperative playschool organized by the DC Recreation Department under the very capable and motherly leadership of Miss Grace Gran, the first link between home and the outside world for many little Brooklanders.

Churches, too, abound. The Catholics -- with their religious houses and institutions, their many liturgies ranging from a floating home-parish, student liturgies, conservative tourist masses at the Franciscan monastery to St. Anthony's -- are not alone. Brookland Methodist, at 14th & Lawrence street NE, is one of the focal points of the community. This is where the action is, be it summer day camp, spring art festival or political activity. Here the Emergency Committee on the Transportation Crisis meets weekly -- a committee which no longer focuses only on opposition to the freeway, but is vitally concerned with such related issues as the need for a multi-faceted and complimentary rather than competitive transportation system and environmental pollution.

They too hope that trees will continue to grow in Brookland.

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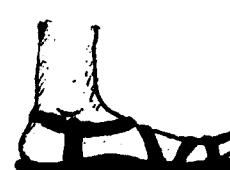
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A school called



AN extraordinary experiment in education is being conducted behind and beyond the doors of Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown. Two young teachers, Bobbi Snow and Julie Hickson, have created Skola, a school that's not a school -- they call it a community of living and learning. Skola is a Greek word meaning leisure and in Swedish it means school and scholar. Washington's Skola tries to encompass both meanings.

The school has 22 students. The church has provided the space and school gets a tiny foundation grant. Beyond that the teachers, their volunteer aides and the students depend upon their own imaginations and desire to learn.

As the photos and text below indicate, the results of this experiment in open and free education (free in both senses of the word) is dramatically different from the educational norm in this city. Some would call this 'Alice's Restaurant'-type atmosphere, chaos or over-indulgence. But as one views the dismal results of traditional education in Washington, there is more than a little merit to looking closely at what two young teachers have created, unburdened by the slothful structure of traditional education.



What goes on there... .

Photos by Roland L. Freeman

Text by Judith Nelson



AS you enter Skola, there is a silk screen poster saying, "He who learns teaches." At the left in a large sanctuary-like room Rosemary is running, jumping, dancing. David, who was practicing on crutches, is now taking a turn riding in the wheel chair. Barbara and Jenny are playing at one of the two pianos and nearby Farli is shooting trash into a wastebasket attached to the wall like a basketball net. Yesterday in this room was a mock court with a man being tried for murder. John was the judge, Wally the prosecutor, Peter the defense counsel, there were five jurors and Stephanie was the doorkeeper. After some deliberation it had been recessed until more information was available.

Some questions

IS Skola a Leicestershire or Summerhill type of school?

Skola is neither a Leicestershire nor Summerhill-type school although it has social freedom of a Summerhill school and the interest centers of a Leicestershire school with the field of exploration going beyond interest centers into the surrounding environment. Skola is another alternative to traditional schooling. Skola is designed to children, encouraging them to figure out what is important to them to learn that any values will be self-discovered and imposed. The emphasis at Skola is to encourage children to know themselves and discover the beauties of life. The hope is that the young people will be strong to difficult challenges fortified by self-knowledge and self-chosen goals. The Leicestershire concept is that a child grows organically like a tree, passing through sequential learning stages such as Jean Piaget, the psychologist, has described. All learners experience and subject matter are integrated and are involved with action on objects, just images and words or abstractions and subject matter.

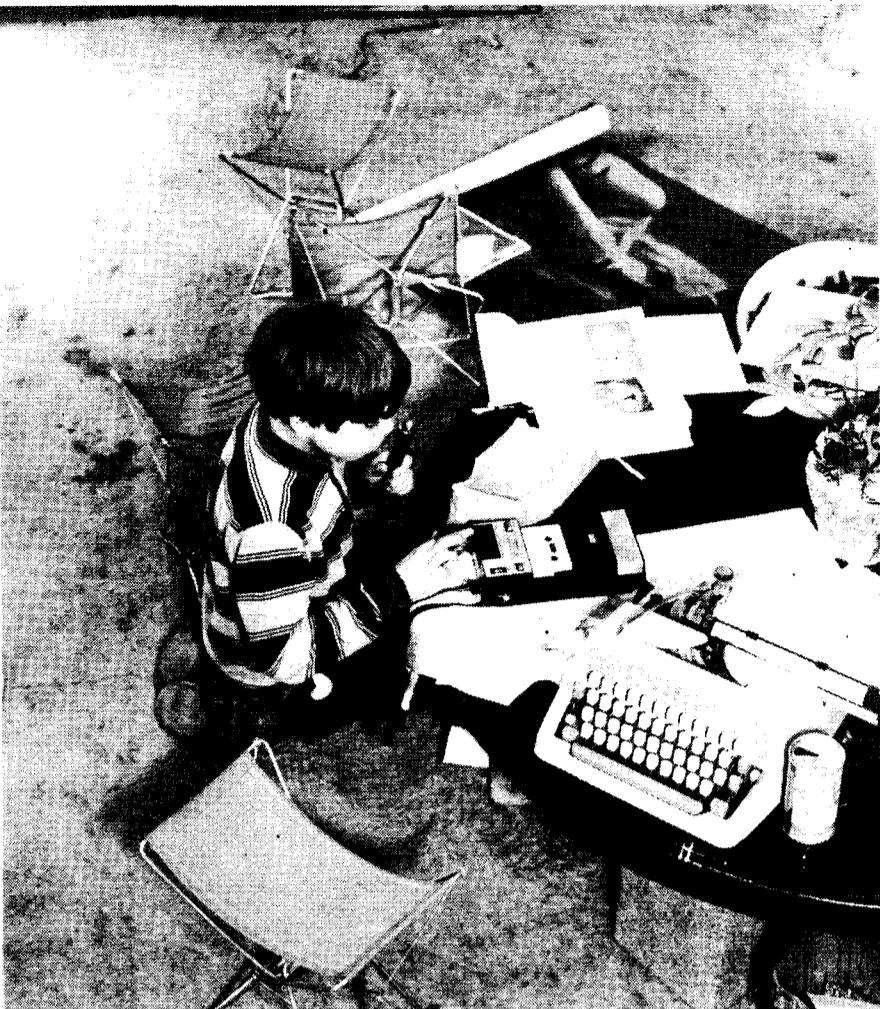
At both Leicestershire-type schools at Skola there is a maximization of peer



THE Reading Room has a rug and a low round table in the center which serves as a focus for the group meetings which can be called by anyone. One such meeting had seventeen attending and all but three participated vocally. The discussion revolved around how to observe Martin Luther King's birthday and whether to have a whole or half holiday. Some wanted to have school all day. By a vote and then a revote because of some changed minds, it was decided to have a whole holiday.



FOR some of the children at Skola, the day might include a picnic along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal or several hours at the Natural History Museum, or an expedition to the library for a fresh supply of books, or a talk with a judge.



A LARGE table holds an aquarium with lights and aerated water, a turtle bowl, three small cages of baby mice and a temporary home for four crayfish in a large bottle. These projects are initiated and cared for by one or more children but are for all to share. Danny, the ichthyologist of Skola, has just left a newly cleaned aquarium and has walked into the reading room to draw and to talk into the tape recorder about some of his observations.



PERHAPS the last words should go to the youngsters at Skola. "If you get hurt, they let you decide if you want help or want to solve the problem alone." "All my friends want to come to this school, and I know now that I could never go to another school." "I liked changing schools because before I got in fights every day. I didn't learn anything and the teachers were so mean. I like everybody here."

-out Skola

AND SOME ANSWERS BY SKOLA TEACHERS BOBBI SNOW AND JULIE HICKSON

learning and the authority of knowledge, rather than of the teacher. At both, inductive learning is stressed with a minimum of deductive learning.

In a Leicestershire-type school there is usually one teacher to about 40 children. At Skola there are two teachers to 22 children.

IS Skola too protective and indulgent? Is it not important to learn the realities of life such as "harsh" teachers and "authority."

The teachers feel that the "harsh realities" of life are at Skola--i.e. people and their insides and emotions. Children at Skola are encouraged to deal with these realities. The teachers place limits on the children in that they may not hurt each other verbally or physically, and children are protected from themselves in that they are, for instance, not allowed to become a bully. Children also learn their rights and responsibilities in dealing directly with such authorities as the police.

WHAT will happen if children from Skola re-enter the traditional school system?

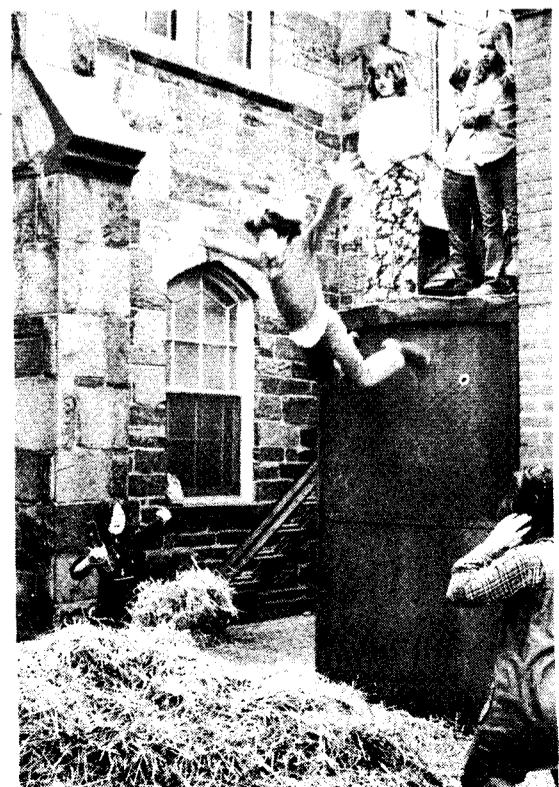
The teachers believe that the children will be more sure of themselves. They will

know what their interests are and what they are good at doing. Everyone at Skola is good at something and has developed his talents. Some will use their experience at Skola to help make the new system as meaningful as

possible. Others will see the chaff of the traditional system and will be turned off, will not take some of its nonsense and will leave school. The teachers hope that children will remember Skola as a place where there was real communication between adults and children as fellow seekers, not as teacher and student.

HOW important is the learning of skills that may only be useful at a later date and whose importance may not be immediately apparent to the student -- say like algebra?

The teachers feel that the Skola experience will make the children competent and unafraid learners and explorers who will feel secure that they can learn when they have to. In math skills, for instance, children explore and learn at their own speed through the SRA math books and workbooks.



The Last Awards

Joel E. Siegel

IT would have seemed absurd to think of making this statement even as recently as two years ago, but the most interesting and most rewarding movies of the past year were not imported from Europe but, instead, were grown right here at home. For a variety of reasons--the collapse of the studio system under the weight of its own greed, the emergence of a steady, unexpectedly enlightened movie audience, new modes of film production, distribution and exhibition and others--we are presently in the middle of an American movie renaissance. With so many young and not-so-young moviemakers doing such promising work, this year's Academy Award selections were particularly depressing. The Awards presentation was so permeated with what can only be characterized as cinematic necrophilia (mummified Myrna Loy, Astaire's nearly-fatal dance and all the rest) that I feel compelled to pass out some awards to the living. I realize that the season for Best Movie Lists has expired, which, come to think of it, is a fine reason for running one now. It would be terrible to think that the nostalgia-oriented Academy Awards (John Wayne, Cary Grant etc.) were the last word on the subject. For the first time in perhaps twenty years, American movies are coming back to life and the artists responsible deserve some recognition, however slight, for their remarkable achievements.

BEST PICTURES: Arthur Penn's Alice's Restaurant, a movie riddled with flaws and uncertainties, is nonetheless my choice as the year's best movie. There is much to fault--Arlo Guthrie's uneasy, charmless performance, Tina Chen's dubious love interest and a number of overly postured, artsy sequences like the funeral in the snow. But in its great moments--and there are so many of them--Penn's pessimistic pastoral has the kind of openness and freedom and depth of feeling that one could previously find only in the work of Europeans like Jean Renoir and Francois Truffaut. Alice's Restaurant is one of the most complex, poetic and quietly innovative movies ever produced in this country and reaffirms Penn's position as the most rewarding director presently active in our commercial film industry. Several other movies are worthy of mention in the same paragraph as Penn's film. Alan J. Pakula's The Sterile Cuckoo, a tragicomedy about what it is to be young and vulnerable and aching for love, is a fine little movie, featuring a spare, intelligent screenplay by Alvin Sargent. Henri Costa-Gavras' Z is hardly the great, liberating political work that its supporters claim. However Z is a neat, efficient, relentlessly exciting thriller and rates high among the year's best and, thanks to cinematographer Raoul Coutard, most beautiful entertainments. Frederick Wiseman's High School and Hospital are superb, compassionate investigations of basic American institutions, the year's most serious films and among the best documentaries ever made.

There are a number of rather seriously flawed movies that still deserve some sort of mention. Midnight Cowboy is fussy, dreadfully directed by John Schlesinger but the basic material is so strong and the central performances so deeply affecting that the film's best scenes--the quiet ones between Hoffman and Voight--continue to haunt the memory. Claude Chabrol's La Femme Infidele is a perfectly-made little movie, hollow at the center I suspect, but worth seeing for its superb craftsmanship. Max Ophuls' Lola Montez (made in 1955 but released in Washington last year) is a formal masterpiece brimming with striking visual ideas and arresting aesthetic conceits but seriously compromised by lots of silly writing and Martine Carol's zombie-like Lola. I can't say that I have an overwhelming fondness or respect for it, but must admit that Lola Montez is a marvelous wreck of a movie. Karel Reisz's Isadora (which owes much to the Ophuls film) was pointlessly butchered by Universal before its American release but what remains of the movie is appealing and highly entertaining and makes one yearn for a look at the version Reisz intended for us to see. A final flawed but entertaining movie is George Cukor's Justine, an agreeably trashy piece of fluff that tosses out all of Durrell's pretensions and settles for what made the Alexandria Quartet endurable reading--the tortured, tarnished characters and

their seamy, wicked environment. I must add that the two finest, most demanding movies I saw last year have yet to be shown commercially in Washington. Robert Bresson's Au Hasard, Balthazar is, simply, the most complex and most shattering movie experience I've ever had and Alain Resnais' Je T'Aime, Je T'Aime (shown by the American Film Institute) is Resnais' best and most accessible work, a brilliant, completely original motion picture.

BEST ACTRESSES: Liza Minnelli's Pookie Adams of The Sterile Cuckoo is a knockout, a bold but tightly controlled performance which juggles several kinds of comedy and pathos and sometimes, wondrously, manages to get all of them into the

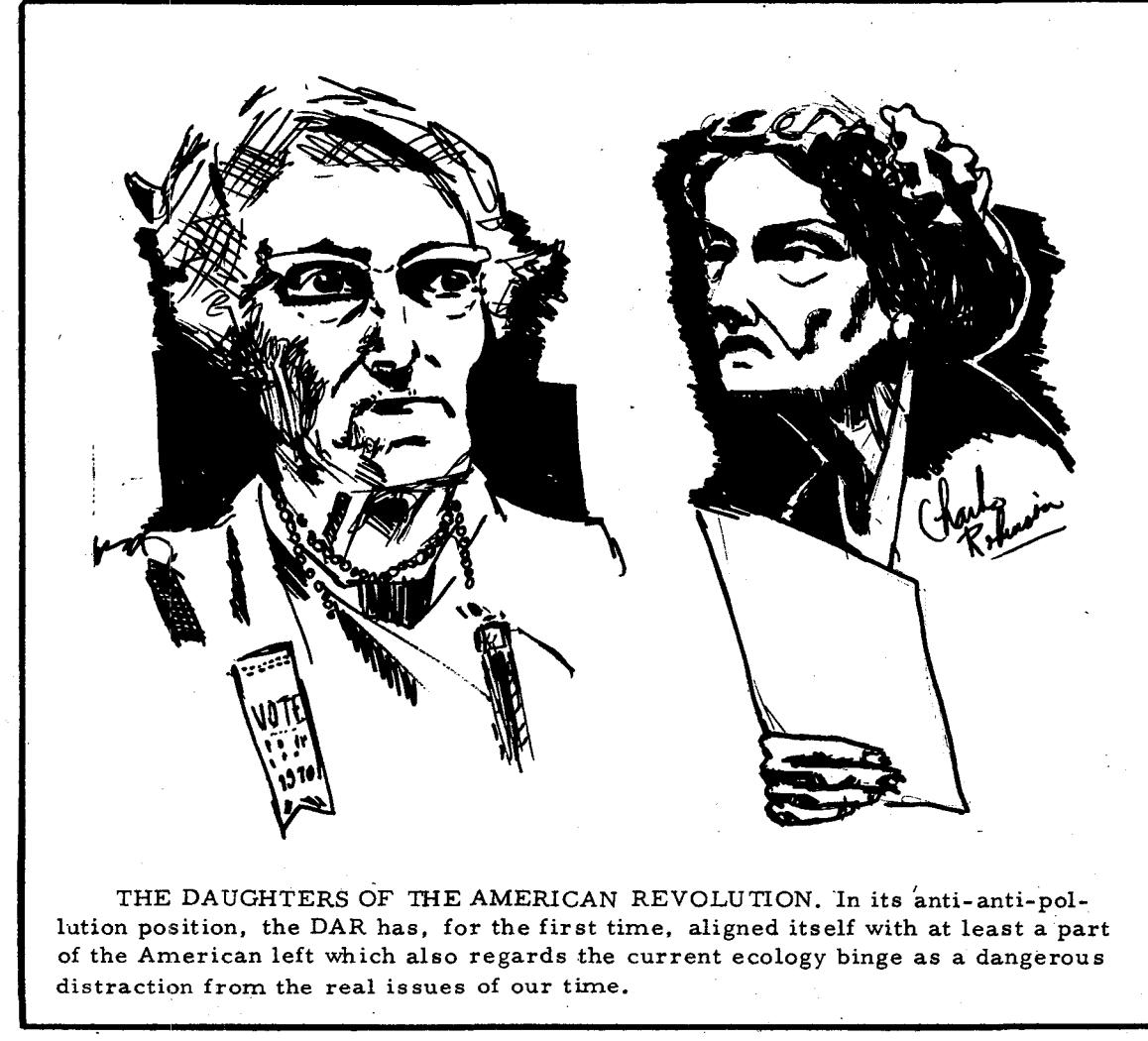


The Gazette Fortnightly Honors List

For services beyond the pale of duty

HARRY N. PETERSON, director of the DC library system, for what may be the shortest retirement in history. Peterson recently announced his plans to retire in June. A few days later the DC Board of Trustees, which doesn't cough except on the advice of Peterson, voted overwhelmingly to urge him to stay on -- at least until completion of the new Central Library. Then we received a short press release announcing the board's action, accompanied by fifty pages telling us, in biography, bibliography and annual report, what a wonderful job Harry N. Peterson had done. Finally, we learned that a branch librarian spent the better part of the week going from library to library circulating a petition on Peterson's behalf (this drive, unlike meetings of the library staff association, was permitted to occur on government time). As this is written, Peterson is considering this unsolicited outpouring of sentiment and deciding what to do about it.

THE DC RECREATION DEPARTMENT, for continued relevance to the world around it, through its sponsorship of the play Green Pastures.



THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. In its anti-anti-pollution position, the DAR has, for the first time, aligned itself with at least a part of the American left which also regards the current ecology binge as a dangerous distraction from the real issues of our time.

films of note

Sympathy for the Devil--Jean-Luc Godard's newest, most reductive movie--a collage of revolution featuring the Rolling Stones. Hardly Godard at his greatest, but formally one of the director's most innovative films and not to be missed.

At the Biograph.

French Film Festival--A selection of great films by Renoir, Carne, Vigo, Clair, Pagnol and others, including some which have not been exhibited locally for over a decade. All are recommended, especially Renoir's lovely Boudoir Saved From Drowning, with Michel Simon's classic performance. Continuing at the Inner Circle.

The Vintage Years--A selection of Paramount films shown at the American Film Institute Theatre at the National Gallery of Art. Especially recommended: Stroheim's The Wedding March (May 9), Mamoulian's Love Me Tonight (May 10, with the director attending), Sternberg's wonderfully campy The Scarlet Empress (May 11), Lubitsch's Trouble in Paradise (May 12) and The Palm Beach Story and The Lady Eve by Preston Sturges (May 16). Membership information and ticket reservations can be made by calling the A. F. I. Theatre at 347-5792.

air at the same time. My other favorite is Pat Quinn's Alice of Alice's Restaurant, the quintessential earth mother and the kind of solid, womanly acting missing from American screens since Patricia Neal and Hud. Other ladies well worth mentioning are Jane Fonda, the tough, battered Gloria Beatty of They Shoot Horses, Don't They?, Vanessa Redgrave's overwhelming Isadora Duncan (not quite the equal of her Nina of The Sea Gull but very close) and, on a lower but still enchanting level, enigmatic Anouk Aimée and affecting Anna Karina in Justine and the charming Ali MacGraw of Goodbye Columbus. Supporting actresses of distinction include bitchy Dyan Cannon of Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice, sweet Bonnie Bedelia, the pregnant girl in They Shoot Horses, Don't They?, and Rita Moreno, the cocaine-sniffing chippy in the otherwise unmentionable The Night of the Following Day.

BEST ACTORS: My favorites are Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight of Midnight Cowboy, particularly for the delicate, selfless way they played their scenes together. James Broderick was Norman Mailerishly brilliant as Ray in Alice's Restaurant. Wendell Burton's subtle, thoughtful Jerry Payne provided the perfect counterpoint to Miss Minnelli's hearty performance in The Sterile Cuckoo and Dirk Bogarde did his sick-of-my-own-twisted-sexuality routine in Justine and did it better than ever. Noteworthy supporting actors include Marcel Bozzuffi, the energetically moronic sadist-homosexual of Z, Jack Nicholson, the saving grace (and, apart from the photography and score, the only grace) of Easy Rider and Roscoe Lee Browne (the flower shop operator) and Phillippe Noiret (the French counterspy) of Hitchcock's dreary Topaz.

WORST FILMS: The year's really lousy movies include Tony Richardson's demolition job of Nabokov's Laughter in the Dark with a swinish Nicol Williamson performance, Garson Kanin's unwatchable comeback film, Where It's At, Hubert Cornfield's nasty, empty The Night of the Following Day, Peter Yates' John and Mary (or Ratso and Rosemary as it was dubbed by a friend), and Herbert Ross's pregnant rhino of a musical, Goodbye Mr. Chips. I have not yet mentioned the year's very worst--a ghastly twosome which, curiously enough, managed to get on many of the Ten Best lists, presumably for their 'significant' subject matter. Luchino Visconti's The Damned, a florid, homo-erotic opera-without-singing (and, seemingly, movie-without-ending) managed to catalogue Nazi no-nos like seducing little girls and making it with Mom... (I hear that they...

killed people too, though Visconti understandably forgot about that with all of the throbbing forbidden sexual hijinks going on.) The Damned is one of the worst serious' films ever made, but nowhere near as bad as Haskell Wechsler's unconscionable Medium Cool which exploits audience concern over the assassinations and police rioting of nightmare Summer 1968 in order to add a bit of interest to a dumb, ill-defined, trivial little romance. I can't think of a movie I respect less than Medium Cool: it is an embarrassing display by a director who, lacking a sense of what's really important in his work, mixes reality and art and manages to debase both in the process.

SPECIAL MENTIONS: The Bad-Goodie of the year is Jaques Demy's disastrous

American debut, Model Shop. This stupidly written, horribly acted film has the most enchanting visuals of the year and offers a truly poetic view of the squalor and majesty of Los Angeles. The Good-Baddie of the year is William Dozier's lunatic The Big Bounce, an immorality play with the Peyton Place Lunts, Leigh Taylor-Young and Ryan O'Neal. The Big Bounce features, among other things, fornication in a graveyard, murder as unpunished spectator sport and single-entendres like nicknaming a sexually-fraught male character Little Pickle. It's a long way from the heights of Alice's Restaurant to the loony depths of The Big Bounce but, as any dedicated moviegoer will tell you, it's a trip well worth taking.

BOOKS

Making it as a IV-F

IV-F: A Guide to Draft Exemption: Medical, Psychiatric, Moral. By David Suttler. 171 pages. Grove Press. \$1.50.

IV-F is not for guys who eagerly await their induction notices as invitations to get into the guts of the Army and create a memorable case of indigestion. Nor is it for those few whose CO claims will be granted, nor for those who make their protest through non-cooperation, the courts, and jail.

IV-F is for those guys who don't want to go, and who are looking for a practical way out. It isn't the type of book you'd read for pleasure. But if you need it--if you're faced with the draft and you don't know what the hell you're going to do to escape--you'll read IV-F with the kind of fascination most Americans reserve for Valley of the Dolls.

The author, David Suttler, is in excellent health. He is also IV-F. "No one," he writes, "is so healthy that he cannot be an Army medical reject."

You cannot be drafted until you pass your physical, but the military does its best to make sure you don't fail. It hides the information needed to prepare an unfitness claim under an impenetrable bureaucracy.

IV-F liberates that information. It reprints the Army's own list of causes for rejection, (adding simple definitions for most of the medical terminology), tells what diseases are easiest to contract, which hangups are best to nurture, and gives precise instructions on how to claim an exemption. Not another useless outline of "rights and responsibilities," it is an accurate, complete, up-to-date guide to freedom.

If you ever had any illusions that you could go to your physical unprepared and walk out draft-free, this book destroys them. You practically have to hop in on one leg and bring the remainder of the other as proof of amputation for the military medical examiners to discover the unfitness on their own initiative. As the book says, "You are more likely to win an exemption with a doctor's letter describing a disqualifying defect that does not exist, than with the condition and no report."

IV-F is the first book to deal comprehensively with all the ways to make yourself unacceptable as-cannon fodder. But it makes perhaps its most important contribution simply by making generally available the official list of rejection criteria.

"My god," someone said after looking over that list, "there are ten diseases of the eyelid that'll keep you out of the Army." Obscene tattoos, severely ingrown toenails, hemorrhoids and Peyronie's disease (painful erection) will also keep you out of uniform. Under the Selective Service Act, a man who has any of the listed ailments (there are over 100) cannot be drafted.

It is not even necessary to actually have a medical problem to get rejected. While IV-F does not advocate deceit or duplicity, it does provide a roster of disqualifying conditions which medical science is at a loss to verify (or unverify). It also explains how several people could obtain exemptions with the help of one unfit and cooperative friend--an illegal gambit no right-thinking American would ever consider, of course.

IV-F also takes the worry out of freaking out for freedom by detailing useful psychiatric problems. One of the more interesting of these is acute fear of the draft: "The prospect of induction very commonly causes young men to suffer great anxiety and the feeling that their lives are being controlled by forces they cannot direct. Daydreams of self-destructive acts which would disqualify them for the Army (such as chopping off fingers or toes) are common. Some even think of suicide, while others plot elaborate and ill-conceived schemes for destroying the government or blowing up the White House."

"As a public-spirited citizen," smiled the psychiatrist who described this syndrome, "I would object to the Army taking these guys. If I were a general, I'd worry about them giving aid and comfort to the enemy."

The chapter discussing "moral" causes for rejection is amusing, but useful only for a limited group. The Army says it doesn't want felons or subversives, but in fact takes most of them anyway. A man with a really fine string of offenses or a truly resourceful revolutionary can, however, succeed in convincing the warlords they'd be better off without him. Even if you can't make the grade, it's nice to savor the irony of the military having moral standards:

"A man who murdered as a civilian is unacceptable to the Army, which trains men to kill. A convicted arsonist cannot be inducted for shipment to Vietnam, where American soldiers burn villages. In short, civilians whose demonstrated talents indicate the greatest potential are summarily rejected by the military."

The problem with getting out as a subversive, by the way, is that the Pentagon insists on the Attorney General's red list as the sole standard of political acceptability, and that list hasn't been revised in years. Most of the dangerous organizations it names probably folded before we were born.

In case you're worried that you really have to be seriously ill to make use of IV-F, that they'll find out your migraine headaches aren't really that bad, listen to what Col. William G. Peard, chief of medical standards, has to say: "Even when we suspect malinger, to prove it is very difficult. A registrant may play upon some defect which might be minor, and it's almost impossible for a physician to say he's lying."

LNS

Guerrilla theater at the transit commission

Mitch Ratner

IT'S getting harder and harder to find good guerrilla theater these days. An exception, however, was provided recently by the WMATC (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission) which performed Hearing for Application on Fare Increase.

DC Transit is back again asking for higher fares, claiming that without them it cannot meet its payroll or debts. It is WMATC's role as the regulatory agency to conduct hearings to establish the validity of the claim. So hear it did, in the person of George Avery, chairman of the Commission, in a small room next to the commission office (which happens to be next to the office of the National Republican Party Finance Committee).

There were usually about 30 people in the law-book lined hearing room. Principal actors were the commission staff (headed by Douglas Schneider, Jr.) and the DC Transit Inc. team (attorney Harvey M. Spear and a sizable entourage of transit co. officers and assistants) plus a number of official intervenors and protestants representing the union, senior citizens, the Commissioner's office, welfare recipients, concerned citizens and a small handful of reporters.

Just like television, supporting roles included one black man, representing the senior citizens, and one woman, representing the welfare mothers of a public housing project.

DC Transit asked early in the proceedings for an emergency interim fare increase to 35¢ to be granted within three days. (The complete hearing and decision may take several months.) It stated that without the immediate increase the company could not meet its payroll. Some have argued, notably Langdon Dowdy, counsel for the Democratic Central Committee, that while the money may not presently be there in cash there are large bus company holdings in non-essential assets and real estate which could be turned into cash to meet expenses.

After a few more brief but exciting opening exchanges in which Spear accused almost everyone of conspiring against DCT "to bring them to their knees," the first company witness, J. Godfrey Butler, senior vice president, began to speak. Round and red-faced, Butler has, except for minor interruptions for education and army, been with the company continuously since 1924. With graphs, charts and pages of figures he presented the company case why the fare increase is both justified and necessary.

The company is asking for an increase to 40¢ in the basic fare, an increase of minibus fare from 10¢ to 20¢ and varied increases in other routes, including a few astronomical increases in suburban routes, e.g. from 82¢ to \$1.60 or, from \$1.25 to \$2.00.

Some of Butler's replies to questions of the WMATC staff were stunning. In reply to a question concerning possible loss of riders due to a 100% increase in fare of

minibus: "Americans are used to rapid rises in costs of everything." Or the reply to the concern that stadium bus fares up to \$1 from 75¢ would be excessive: "It's fairly well understood by the sporting community that they're going to get taken at events like this." But for the most part, he just droned on about exhibit four, schedule E, etc.

Harvey M. Spear, on the other hand, was continually fascinating. In a room full of virtually only white, middle aged, conservatively dressed men, he caught one's attention. Fiftyish, with graying hair somehow hanging with dignity over his coat collar, long sideburns and a shaggy moustache, plus a bright shirt and a hardy look, he gives at first the impression of a civil liberties lawyer.

But as one watches him handle his staff, or listens to him argue, the vibrations change, for he is the personal representative of O. Roy Chalk, millionaire manipulator. He is, like so much in America, the shell of something real--like the hip businessman selling peace symbols for a profit. The man strong and powerful enough in his profession to dare to be different, but not true enough to himself to be real.

Spear's main foils were the union lawyers Herman Sternstein and Jonathan Siner. They, also, were part of a conspiracy to "force public ownership on people in the District." Spear's anger is partly that of a cockled husband--once the unions had faithfully supported the company in all fare increases, more recently they've switched to supporting public ownership with subsidies and greatly reduced fares. Besides, no mistress likes to pay her own rent; repeated underhanded loans from the union pension fund is the main issue in the present and many past threatened strikes.

The union traces the pension fund problem back to 1966 when Chalk asked it for a \$3 million loan to keep the company going. The union balked, sensing the conflicts of such a double role. (Not to mention that they then would have 6 times as much equity in the company as Chalk but with no control.) Ever since, the pension and welfare funds taken out of employees' salaries have been chronically late getting to the union's bank--in essence, a monthly interest-free loan--a million dollars held up for a month amount to over \$6,000 lost interest. So now, almost seasonally, DC expects a transit crisis. Presently the company has outstanding \$436,000 with another \$290,000 having been deposited the day before a recent court hearing.

Sternstein, representing the local transit union, is down to his name (iron stone) cast perfectly as the no-nonsense, no frills union lawyer. Siner is more of a surprise. Young, slightly hip, he is a recent graduate of University of Wisconsin Law School and was too much a part of his own generation to remain more than the few months he did with the Federal Communications Commission. He now travels around the country promoting the International Amalgamated Transit Union's position of "fare-free, convenient and efficient public transportation alternatives to the automobile supported by general tax funds." It is about the only humanly realistic position there is, which doesn't mean, unfortunately, it has any chance of getting enacted here or elsewhere.

There's a certain inherent powerlessness in what the commission can do. Perhaps no one knows this better than George Avery, the chairman of WMATC. With Kennedy politics and looks and a Dick Van Dyke smile, he has played midwife to countless hearings. (Since 1955 the commission has granted 11 fare increases, 5 since 1967.) He's the man caught in the system. He knows higher fares are catastrophic for the city, for poor people, and for the environment, but the law says the bus company must have a profit. And as he says, "I've got to live

A short history

EVER since O. Roy Chalk got control of the Washington transit systems in 1955 there's been a lot of controversy. Somehow, back then, he got a company valued at 23.8 million for \$13.5 million with an actual cash outlay of \$500,000. In the next ten years there was a return of 830% on the original investment, not to mention appreciation in real estate and other numerous benefits.

As money and property was flowing out, the health of the company was declining, till by the late sixties even the numerous fare increases (11 since '55, 5 since '67) could not give the company and Chalk the returns it had been promised by congress. This was due to some highly questionable real estate spin-offs, business expenses, and high dividends, plus the rising cost of interest inherent in the extremely debt-heavy capital structure (Debt-equity ratio rose from 4-1 in 1960 to 24-1 in 1968), and the rising cost of labor.

The city, almost unnoticed, has been subsidizing Chalk. They make up the difference between the 10¢ student fare and the regular fare, exempt the company from over \$600,000 in DC fuel taxes, and guarantee him a profit. The whole structure exploded most sensationally into public view in March 1969 when members of the Local 689 of the Amalgamated Transit Union threatened to strike to force payment of \$2.3 million owed to the union pension fund by the company. It had, in effect, been using the union to finance the company. The issue was never truly resolved, and leads directly to this year's seasonal crisis.

with the world and the law as it exists." So, like so many, he stays in the machine, a part of something he knows is wrong.

Take another step back and you see wrongs which have been that way so long they aren't even noticed by the players. Again, white men alone are deciding black men's fate--for who are the riders if not predominantly black. Public service run for private profit is irrational itself (would you ask that police and fire be private with each user paying his own way?); to have O. Roy Chalk's control and manipulation be so complete, so avaricious, and so open is almost inconceivable.

And no one questions the commission's right to exist--3 appointed officials, one each from DC, Maryland and Virginia, regulate busing which has an 85% DC ridership. Why is there not a ten man elected board with one each from Maryland and Virginia and eight from the district? Maybe then there would be black men and working-men and poor people and old people with some control over their lives. Why not?

After bus company officers testified for two and a half days, a date was set for presentation of witnesses by the other side (May 18th) and the hearings were adjourned till then. So the episode ended, except for the press conference held immediately after announcing the WMATC decision to grant a fare increase (from 35¢ to 50¢) to W.V. & M. Coach Company. (DC Transit and W.V. & M. are operationally one, though corporately two)--a not too subtle indication of the ultimate outcome of the present hearings.

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DONATIONS

news notes

WHEN the new Southwest was created, not only were thousands of humans evicted to clear the land for big profits by big developers, but hundreds of businesses were thrown out as well. Many just folded up. Now it's happening to small businesses all over again -- this time in downtown Washington. If the downtown urban renewal plan goes through, some 126 small establishments will be displaced in the name of progress. The beneficiaries will be the land speculators, developers and the big businesses who have rigged the urban renewal plans so that none of them will have to move.

The urban renewal scheme, master-minded by Downtown Progress, front group for the corporate vizars of center city, will directly compete with urban renewal plans in riot-hit areas for federal funds.

The matter should come before the City Council soon. The small businessmen need all the help they can get. For more information write the Committee for the Rights of the Washington Business Community Inc., 37 Longfellow NW.

WARREN D. Quenstedt, acting general manager of Metro, recently stated that he thought DC Transit probably deserves to have higher fares. That's interesting, considering the fact that Metro's fare structure will parallel those of the bus company. It means many people will be able to choose between two different "mass" transit system, neither one of which they can afford to ride.

IT seems that now would be a good time for citizen groups to pressure the City Council to hold hearings on the question of cable television. At least three private corporations would like to get a CATV monopoly here. On the other hand, a public corporation could be set up to control CATV in DC, with channels both leased to commercial interests and used by community groups. It will take a lot of public pressure to swing it, though.

ISN'T it interesting that the Commissioner's director of human resources doesn't even live in the city?

A BIOCHEMISTRY student at the University of California has developed an easy-to-make and easy-to-use antidote for tear gas. The recipe is to mix 8-10 eggs with one cup of water and a tablespoon of baking soda. Beat very well. Makes about a quart. Says the compound's creator, John McWhorter, he and many others spread the egg mixture on their faces and around their eyes. They then walked out into a wave of tear gas during an April 15 demonstration. Their reaction: "We felt fine."

Vinegar in a handkerchief, McWhorter

ter indicated, is an effective agent to breathe through, but vinegar should not be spread on the face. The egg formula is said to work on both CS and CN gas. McWhorter promised that further research on tear gas antidotes is proceeding despite some pressure from unnamed sources.

THE recent trial of Marion Barry on charges of assaulting a policeman following a dispute over the ticketing of cars near the Pride headquarters resulted in a hung jury. The government has not made the logical decision to drop the case and so, presumably, the matter will go to trial again. In addition to the costs involved in this, there are expenses left over from the previous trial. A committee headed by the Rev. David Eaton is attempting to raise at least \$3000 to pay these existing and future expenses. In addition, the committee is asking that people write U.S. Attorney Thomas Flannery and urge him to drop this case, part of the continuing police harrassment of Barry and other black leaders in the community.

Contributions can be sent to the Marion Barry Defense Committee, c/o Pinkett, 1507 9th St. NW, DC 20001.

WRC-TV presents five half-hour programs on hopeful experiments in education on forthcoming Sundays at 9 a.m. May 10: The New Thing Learning Center, May 17: Kingsbury Lab School, May 24: Eastern High's Freedom School, May 31: Barrett Elementary School.

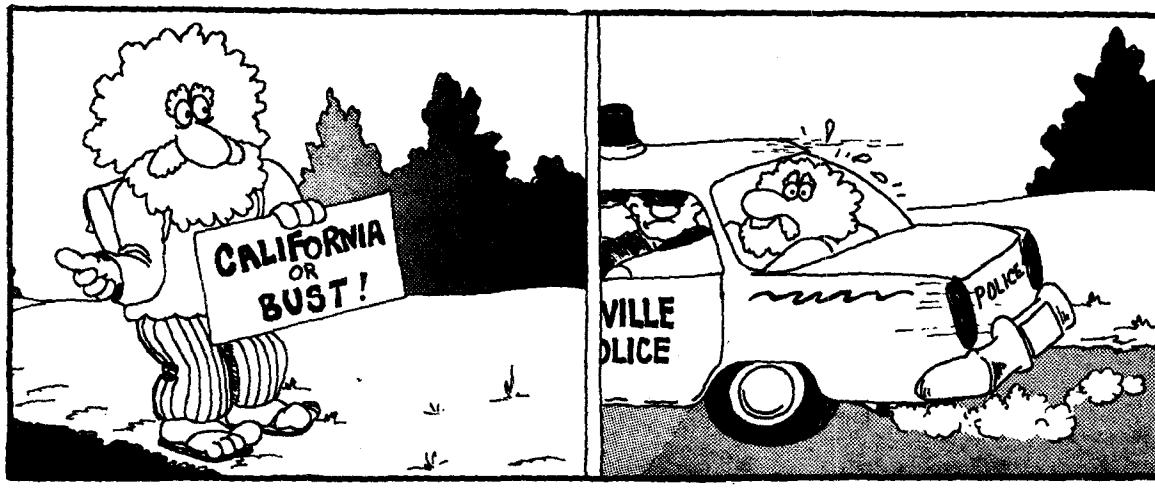
THE Washington Post's cement correspondent, Jack Eisen, on Helen Leavitt's new book, Superhighway -- Super Hoax: "To accept Mrs. Leavitt's thesis, one must be prepared to accept as a fact that bureaucrats, oil and tire manufacturers, planning consultants, road builders, cement makers, downtown business interests, legislators, congressmen and newspaper editorial writers are engaged in one huge conspiracy, motivated by greed or stupidity."

A few days later, Jack was writing a front page story about Rep. Natcher's latest threat to cut off Metro funds if the city didn't get going on the construction of a highway system to the congressman's liking.

Looks like Mrs. Leavitt has hold of a fact.

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--R. T. Reece in The Spectator



Classified Section

RATES: Short public service type announcements printed free of charge. All other classifieds: 5¢ a word. \$1 minimum. Mail to the Gazette, 109 8th St. NE, Washington DC 20002, or call us at 543-5850.

SERVICES

WILL clean basements, garages & attics in exchange for usable furniture, rugs, sofas & other household items. Call 483-5090 or 387-5933.

HELP NEEDED

THE 8th Annual Art and Book Festival sponsored by Neighbors, Inc., a Northwest Washington civic organization, needs donations of used books and records of all kinds. For free pick-up in the DC area of these tax-deductible donations call: Mrs. Audrey Marcus, 829-0496; Mrs. Norma Melendez, 726-1048; or Mrs. Barbara Graham 291-5124. Donations may also be left at local Hechinger Stores.

The Festival will be held this year on June 20th and 21st at Coolidge High School, 5th and Tuckerman Streets, NW.

THE Campus School is open for new Fall registration. The Campus School is a pioneer in the area of parent-controlled education in the District of Columbia. Ecumenical, inter-racial and committed to an education relevant to the whole Washington community, the Campus School invites participation from the community in defining its tasks and goals. The Campus School runs from Kindergarten through Eighth grade. Tuition is presently set at \$700.00 per year. For further information, write or phone the Campus School, 10th & Varnum Streets, NE, LA6-9080.

MISC.

YOUNG person or couple wanted to share communal house. Own room, air conditioned, carpeted. \$100. DU 7-7171 ext. 54 days.

GW draft counseling available Tues., Weds., Thurs., from 7-11 p.m. 2131 G NW Call FE 8-0182 for appointment.

WANTED: wrought iron furniture, particularly a two-seater bench. Call Pat days at 543-5850 or evenings at 544-6320.

FOR SALE: Modern sofa in excellent condition. Available immediately. Making room for new furniture. Make offer. Call 547-7119.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

hearings

A PUBLIC hearing will be conducted on May 9 by the task force on family planning of the Council of Churches of Greater Washington. The hearing, which begins at 10 a.m., will be held at the Luther Place Memorial Church, 1226 Vermont Ave. NW. Interested organizations are invited to present testimony. The task force is seeking to prepare guidelines on family planning. The hearing will be conducted by task force chairman, the Rev. Daniel Pierotti. Other members include Rabbi Eugene Lipman, Mrs. H. Arnold Karo, Rev. Rodney Shaw, Rev. Henry Miles, Rev. Ernest Newborn, Mrs. Russell Nichols, Mrs. Etta Horn, Mrs. Sarah McPherson, and Mrs. Anthony Johnson. Topics of the hearing will include birth control, sex education, abortion, population, unmarried parenthood, public health centers, and legislation. Persons wishing to testify should call 638-1077.

school board

THE School Board meets on May 6 in the City Council chamber at 7:30 p.m. Persons desiring to address the board must make application in writing to the executive secretary of the Board, Presidential Building, 415 12th NW, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting and state the subject to be presented.

summer jobs

THE DC Manpower Administration has established employment centers at each of the city's eleven senior high schools. The centers are staffed by DCMA and school personnel who will process applications, interview, certify and refer youths to jobs. The emphasis is on jobs for youths 16-21. A limited number of jobs for 14 and 15 year olds will also be available. All youth job openings and/or training opportunities that are made available to DCMA will be distributed daily to the employment centers. The centers will be open Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Where to get job applications: Students may get applications in their homerooms, from counselors or from the school office or at the high school center nearest them. Out-of-school youths can get applications from UPO centers, housing authority offices, Urban League, DC Recreation Centers and roving leaders, police boy's clubs and from the lobby of the employment service, 501 C NW.

Priority system: A priority system has been established so that those most in need of jobs will get first crack at them.

Social Security Card: All youth workers must have a social security number and should arrange for this before applying for work. Cards can be obtained through the following offices:

1325 K NW. (962-0230)
2826 Alabama SE. (962-1226)
4061 Minnesota NE. (963-7734)
402 H NE. (962-8066)
1302 Rhode Island NE. (962-6968)
1244 Taylor NW. (962-4382)

Work permits: All youths who have not reached their 18th birthday must get a permit in order to work. Each youth must first secure a birth certificate. Those born in DC who do not presently have a copy of the birth certificate should go to 300 Indiana Ave. NW, room 1028. Youths not born in

DC should write to the state or county where they were born and request the certificate. Or they may get the vital statistics number of their birth registration from their school record, if school office will furnish same.

Permits will be issued through each of the high school employment centers and through the regular work permit offices listed below:

415 12th St. NW. Room 912 (629-4729)
1106 Bladensburg Road, NE. (629-2959)
2124 Nichols Ave. SE. (582-1900)
504 Kennedy St. NW. (629-4533)
1719 Kalorama Road, NW. (483-3327)
3234A Penna. Ave. SE. (629-4091)

In addition to private and public jobs available through the DCMA, the following agencies will also be offering jobs for youths.

DC government agencies (regular summer hires): Some 1200 persons will be hired directly by the personnel offices of the respective agencies.

Summer Enrichment Program: Some 1500 persons will be hired by Neighborhood Planning Councils and organizations contracting for summer programs. For more information contact Jesse Anderson, employment coordinator, 629-2123.

The DCMA centers hope to find 50,000 summer jobs.

classes

FEDERAL City College's telephone mini-lessons are discussing home furnishings during May. To hear the lessons call 737-5510 anytime day or night. The lessons are three minutes in length. A related self-learning kit is available for those interested, upon request.

THE Howard Law School Center for Clinical Legal Studies is holding a black economic development seminar series at the Howard Law Moot Court, 2370 6th NW, from 7 to 9 p.m. on May 7.

benefits

THE Friends Festival is scheduled for May 9 from 11 to 5 at 2111 Fla. Ave. NW, one block from Connecticut Ave. International gifts, arts, antiques, flea market, garden shop, books, records, baked goods. For the benefit of Quaker projects and concerns, William Penn House and International Student House.

There will be a silent auction on May 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. George's Episcopal Church, 2nd & U NW. Items will be on display for bidding on May 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and after each service on May 10.

sports

THE DC Department of Recreation is offering lessons in archery beginning May 7 at 16th & Kennedy NW. For more information call 629-7555 or 629-7567.

THERE will be a horseshoe tournament on May 17 at the recreation area near 15th & Constitution SW. Interested parties should bring their own horseshoes and may look forward to competition in singles and doubles, 5 to 7 game schedules and specific groups organized according to pitching ability. For more information call Mayo Pittman at 629-7566 or Allen Bertschy at 248-5522.

THE Smithsonian Institution conducts a boomerang workshop on May 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you've never thrown a boomerang, you'll learn how; if you have thrown one, but have forgotten how to do it, maybe the workshop will help it come back to you. Call 381-5157 for cost information and reservations. Note: each participant gets a boomerang from Australia as a souvenir.

SENATORS baseball: vs. Baltimore on May 15, 16 (7:30 p.m.) and May 17 (1 p.m.); vs. Cleveland, May 18 & 19 (7:30 p.m.); vs. Kansas City, May 29 (7:30 p.m.), May 30 & 31 (1:30 p.m.)

DARTS soccer: vs. St. Louis, May 10, and vs. Kansas City, May 24, at Catholic U., 4 p.m.; vs. German team, May 8, and vs. English team, May 22, at RFK. Info: 363-1047.

WASHINGTON Rugby Football Club vs. Manhattan, May 9, at East Potomac Park, 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Free.

misc.

THE DC PTA convention will open on the evening of May 11 at the Departmental Auditorium 14th & Constitution NW. Business sessions and workshops will be held on May 12 and 13 and the convention will close with a banquet at the Sheraton Park on the evening of May 13.

THE DC Department of Public Health has established 40 evening clinics to give German measles shots to children who have not yet had them. The clinics run through the beginning of June from 7 to 9 p.m. For information on clinic locations and procedures call 629-3776.

FREE films are shown Thursdays in the Parish House of St. John's Church, Lafayette Square at 12:30 p.m. May 7: Charlie Chaplin's Easy Street; May 14: Douglas Fairbanks in Black Pirate; May 21: Bulldozed America; May 28: D. W. Griffith's The Fall of Babylon.

IF you want to tell someone who makes a difference how awful you think the House DC crime bill is, write or visit any of the following senatorial conferees: Joseph Tydings, Charles Mathias, William Spong, Thomas Eagleton, Charles Goodell.

THE National Capital Area Child Day Care Assn. presents "Child Day Care Day" on May 9. The program will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Church of the Brethren, 4th & NC Ave. SE. Guest speaker will be Mrs. Stefan F. Horn of the Danish Embassy who will discuss "Is good day care the right of every child?" There will be a panel discussion and a box luncheon. For more information call the association at 638-1272.

THE Venceremos Brigade presents the film Fidel on May 13 at Gaston Hall, Georgetown University. 7:30 and 10 p.m. Donations.

THE League of Women Voters presents petitions for DC representation in Congress -- gathered from around the nation -- to the Hill on May 6.

THERE will be a trip to Philadelphia to inspect a black shopping plaza there on June 9, sponsored by the Capitol East Community Organization. For more information, call CECO at 547-0630.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

regular meeting dates

WHO	TIME	WHEN	WHERE	INFO
City Council		1st & 3rd Tues.	District Building, room 500	629-3806
Board of Zoning Adjustment	10 a.m.	3rd Wednesday	District Building, room 500	629-4426
School Board	7:30 p.m.	1st & 3rd Weds.	Presidential Bldg., 415 12th NW	ST 3-6111
DC Democratic Central Committee	8 p.m.	second Tuesday	1009 13th NW	783-9370
Emergency Committee on Transportation Crisis	8 p.m.	every Thursday	Brookland Methodist, 14th & Lawrence NE	LA 6-4592
Model Cities Commission	7:30 p.m.	alternate Tuesdays	U.S. Employment Service, 6th & Penna. NW	629-5095
Jews for Urban Justice	6 p.m.	alternate Mondays	Various	244-6752
Washington Teachers Union		last Monday		387-8100
DC Citizens for Better Public Education	7:45 p.m.	2nd Thursday	1346 Conn. Ave. NW	296-1364
Catholic Peace Fellowship	7 p.m.	each Tuesday	3619 12th NE	

COMMUNITY

Capitol East

CECO Expo '70

THE Capitol East Community Organization presents CECO Expo '70 May 23-31. Here's the schedule and whom to contact for more information:

May 23 & 24: Black Arts & Book Fair, 1-6 p.m. at St. Monica's, 1340 Mass. SE (Larry Bowen, 544-2394)

May 25: Unity Night for NE groups. At CIC, 1125 H NE (12th St. entrance) (Wallacetime Curtis, 547-7200)

May 26: Unity Night for SE groups. At Friendship House, 619 D SE, (Raymond Smith, 547-8880).

May 27: Basketball Fallout featuring Saints vs. Sinners and Money vs. People at St. Cecilia's, 601 E. Capitol. (The Saints are local ministers; the Money are local businessmen; the Sinners and the People are teams made up of others in the community.) Tickets: \$1 for adults and 50¢ for youths. (James Green, 547-0630.)

May 28: Meeting of the black businessmen who comprise the Capitol East Community Businessmen's Assn., 1500 E. Capitol St. (Ted Neal, 547-0630)

May 29: CECO dance, 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. at St. Mark's, 3rd & A SE. Tickets \$10 per person. Julio Miranda's band. Food and refreshments. (Tom Torosian, 544-4309)

May 30: CECO parade, starting from 12th & Montello NE and 6th & K SE, moving towards Lincoln Park and then on to RFK Stadium. (Isaac Fulwood or Abdullah Azeze, 547-0630)

CECO Festival, 3-5 p.m., at Eastern H.S., 17th & E. Capitol St. (Raymond Gray, 544-2394) Also at Eastern: trades fair (John Williams, 547-0630) and community services fair (Nadine Winter, 544-4940).

May 31: Capitol East Housing Tour. (Bill Posey, 544-0523) 12 - 2 p.m.

Camp Meeting and Gospel-Soul Jam at Lincoln Park, 2-6 p.m. (Bernice Ferrell, 543-0588)

MEETINGS

THE Friendship House Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the house, 619 D SE.

THE Friendship House Neighborhood Advisory Council meets the fourth Monday of each month at 8 p.m. at the house, 619 D SE.

THE Capitol Hill Action Group meets on the first and third Sunday of the month at 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Church, 3rd & A SE.

are \$3 and are available at the Emporium, 305 Penna. Ave. SE and Swann-White Ltd., 311 7th SE.

LIBRARIES

THE NE Branch Library, 7th & Md. NE, shows films for children on May 9 and 23 at 2 p.m.

The SE Branch Library, 7th & D SE, shows films for children on May 14 and 29 at 4 p.m.

THE NE Branch Library, 7th & Md. NE, presents a feature length comedy film along with a film on Malcolm X on May 20 at 4 p.m.

THE Northeast Branch Library, 7th & D NE, shows free films for adults on May 6, 13 and 27 at 7 p.m.

MISC.

THE Capitol Hill Restoration Society holds its house & garden tour on May 10. Tickets

Chevy Chase

THE Chevy Chase Library, Conn. & Mc-Kinley NW, shows free films for adults on May 7 and 21. 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Pleasant

LIBRARIES

SLIDES of South America will be shown at the Mt. Pleasant Library on May 5 and 19 at 2 p.m. 16th & Lamont NW.

Upper NE

Martin Luther King Festival

THE Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Arts Festival continues in Upper Northeast through May 10. Here's the schedule of events:

MAY 4: Multi-media show at McKendree Methodist Church, S.D. Ave. & Lawrence NE, with slides, film, sound recordings, light show and poster room. 7:30-10:30 p.m. An art show for the benefit of the Howard Mississippi Project opens at Randall Memorial Baptist Church, 3200 22nd NE, to continue daily 12-9 p.m. The first of five film shows will be screened at Woodridge Library at 4 p.m. Title: I Have a Dream.

MAY 5: Drama night at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 1725 Mich. NE, will present Martin Luther Me and a narrative song in honor of Martin Luther King by the Inner Voice from Lorton Reformatory. 8:30 p.m. Woodridge Library film show: The Hurdler and First Festival of Negro Arts. 4 p.m.

MAY 6: A concert of choral music will be performed at Isle of Patmos Baptist Church, 12th & R.I. Ave. NW, by four groups: the Turkey Thicket Choral Arts Society and Instrumental Ensemble, the Washington Children's Choir, the Federal City College Folk Choir, and the Youth Choir of the Isle of Patmos Baptist Church. 8 p.m. Woodridge Library film show: Black History: Lost, Stolen or Strayed, Part I. 4 p.m.

MAY 7: Dance concert at the Episcopal Church of Our Savior, 16th & Irving NE, with performances by the Rhythm Choir of the People's Congregational Church, the Catholic U. International Folk Dancers and the African Heritage Dancers and Drummers. 8 p.m. Two coffee houses, one for all ages and one for teenagers, will offer refreshments, live entertainment, and the chance to watch artists at work, each night through May 11. One coffee house will operate at the Brookland Methodist Church, beginning at 8 p.m. The other, for teenagers, will be open 8-10 p.m. at the Michigan Park Christian Church, South Dakota Ave. & Taylor NE. Woodridge Film Show: Black History, Part II. 4 p.m.

MAY 8: Youth Talent Night at the Sherwood Presbyterian Church, 22nd & Varnum NE, will provide a showcase for the accomplishments of boys and girls from local junior and senior high schools. 7:30 p.m. Skilled handiwork of both adults and youths will be displayed at the Crafts and Hobbies Show at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 12th & Lawrence NE, open 7-10 p.m. Woodridge Library film show: Martin Luther King. 4 p.m.

MAY 9: Outdoor folk dancing on the parking lot of St. Anthony's Catholic Church from 4 to 7 p.m. Crafts show open 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

MAY 10: The Washington Children's Choir will present a concert of sacred music from Bach to Gershwin at 7:30 p.m. in the Notre Dame Chapel of Trinity College, Michigan Ave. and Franklin NE. 7:30 p.m. Crafts and hobby show. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Congress Hgts.

MEETINGS

THE Congress Hgts. Assn. for Service and Education meets each Tuesday at 11 a.m. at 2737 1/2 Nichols Ave. SE.

Far SE

THE SE Neighbors meet the first Monday of each month at Ft. Davis Library, 37th & Alabama Ave. SE, 8 p.m. Info: 3601 Alabama Ave. SE, DC 20020.

THE Far NE-SE Council meets on the third Friday of the month at 8 p.m. at the 14th Precinct, 4135 Benning Rd. NE.

Far NE

MEETINGS

THE Far NE-SE Council meets on the third Friday of the month at 8 p.m. at the 14th Precinct, 4135 Benning Rd. NE.

Tenley-Friendship

LIBRARIES

THE Tenley-Friendship Branch Library, Wisconsin Ave. & Albemarle NW, shows films for children on May 22 at 3:30 p.m.

Southwest

THE SW Branch Library, Wesley Place & K SW, shows free films for adults on May 14 and 28, 7:30 p.m.

Anacostia

THE Anacostia Branch Library, Good Hope Rd & 18th SE, shows free films for adults on May 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 7:30 p.m.

THE Ft. Davis Library, 37th & Alabama SE, shows free films for adults on May 6, 13, 20 and 27, 1:30 p.m.

The Craft Shop

Renny Parziale, Potter
Wheel thrown stoneware
Upstairs at 661 C St. SE
546-5017

Sister Ann

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Professional advice. Will help you with any problem you may have. If sick, worried, unhappy, in need of help, visit her office for a private reading and consultation. Call for further information and appointment. 659-3239. Office hours: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. 1907 Eye St. NW (near Doctor's Hospital).

DC ARTS AND ARTISTS

stage

LA Ronde, Arthur Schnitzler's turn of the century comedy about the many facets of love is playing at Theatre Lobby on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through May 16. Info: EX 3-5818.

THE Dance of Death, by August Strindberg, adapted by Avila Mayer, plays at the Arena Stage, 6th & M SW, through May 24. 638-3700.

CONTINENTAL Divide, a new three-act comedy by Oliver Hailey written for the Washington Theater Club, opens a four-week run May 6. Hailey is the author of Who's Happy Now, a WTC comedy that played here last year and which was presented later in New York. In Continental Divide, a cast of four is made up of two sets of prospective in-laws, one rich, the other poor, who meet head on at the former's estate on Long Island's North Shore. Davey Marlin-Jones directs and the cast consists of Anne Chodoff, Bryan Clark, Trinity Thompson and Arlen Dean Snyder.

THE Shakespeareans present Midsummer Night's Dream May 8, 9, and 10 at 814 20th NW. Evenings: 8:30, Sundays: 3 p.m.

THE Mt. Vernon Players will present a musical adaptation of Booth Tarkington's Seventeen on May 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23. Performances are at the Undercroft Auditorium, 900 Mass. Ave. NW with evening curtain at 8:15 p.m. and Saturday matinees at 2:30 p.m. Reservations: 347-1484.

UNFINISHED Song, a production of Howard University, will be presented at the American College Theatre Festival, May 9 and 10, at Ford's Theatre at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a 2 p.m. matinee on May 10. For ticket information call 343-8893.

THE Fantasticks returns to Ford's Theater on May 29 and will play through Labor Day. Performances will be given nightly, Monday through Friday at 7:30. On Saturdays there will be performances at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Ticket information: 638-2941.

AMERICAN University presents Chips With Everything on May 7-9, 13-16 at the Clendenen Theatre, Mass. & Nebr. NW at 8:30 p.m.

GEORGETOWN University presents The Royal Hunt of the Sun on May 5 at 7:30 p.m. and on May 6 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the University Center Theater at George Washington Part of College Theater Festival.

music

THE National Gallery Orchestra gives a free concert at the gallery on May 24 at 8 p.m.

THE Cathedral Choral Society presents the first Washington performance of Rossini's Moses with members of the Washington National Symphony - May 12-13 at 8:30 p.m. in Washington Cathedral. Seats \$3 to \$7.50. 966-3424 or 966-3423.

THE Camerata Chorus of Washington with chamber ensemble will present the works of Charpentier, Haydn, Frederick the Great and Mozart at the Hall of Musical Instruments of the National Museum of History and Technology on May 4 at 8:30 p.m.

THE Washington Consort presents a short informal concert on May 20 at 4:40 p.m. at the Hall of Musical Instruments, National Museum of History and Technology.

THE Baroque Arts Chamber Orchestra of Washington presents the music of Handel, Bach and Haydn on May 12 at 8:15 p.m. at Jefferson JHS, 8th & H SW. The free concert will be conducted by William Radford-Bennett and will feature soloists Naomi Blake, soprano, and Michael Tronzon, baritone. Works to be performed include Bach's Cantata 57 and Haydn's rarely heard Symphony No. 61 in D Major.

THE DC Department of Recreation presents the National Symphony Orchestra in a free Memorial Day concert at 7:30 p.m. on the Mall Terrace of the Museum of Natural History.

art shows

RECENT watercolors by Alice Acheson will be on display at the Franz Bader Gallery through May 9. 2124 Penna. Ave. NW. Tues. through Sat. 10-6 p.m.

GRAPHICS and drawings by Juan Downey will be on display at the Lunn Gallery, 3243 P NW, beginning May 11. Tues. through Sat. 11-6. Sunday: 1-5.

THE works of Robert Newmann will be on display at the Pyramid Gallery, 2222 P NW, through May 16.

THE works of Mildred Lachman will be presented at the Jane Haslem Gallery, 1669 Wisc. Ave. NW, through May 16.

THE paintings of Sandra Battist Gair will be on exhibit at the Washington Theatre Club's Showcase Gallery, 1101 23rd NW, through May 31. Hours: Mon. 12-6, Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m., Sun. 2-10.

THE palette knife paintings of Ruby Arms are on exhibit at the Spectrum Gallery through May 10. Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday: 2-5. 3033 M NW.

THERE will be a sidewalk art show at the Georgetown Presbyterian Church, 3115 P NW, on May 8 and 9, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

THERE will be an exhibition of paintings and drawings by American University students at the Watkins Gallery on campus May 10-23.

RECENT paintings by Audrey Glassman will be on view at the Studio Gallery, 1735 Conn. Ave. NW through May 16.

dance

THE Capitol Ballet Company featuring Lloyd McNeil, John Jones, and James Weaver, under the artistic direction of Doris Jones and Claire Haywood, performs on May 22 at 8:30 p.m. at the auditorium of the National Museum of Natural History. Tickets \$3. Additional performances May 23 and 24.

THE Church St. Dance Company gives concerts on May 8 & 9 at 8:30 p.m. and on May 10 at 3 p.m. Advance ticket sales will be handled by the Church St. Theater and Erika Thimey Dance Studio. Tickets will also be available at the door. For information and reservations call 387-4000.

flotsam & jetsam

cause the Washington Post and NBC, in the quest of that gossamer virtue, objectivity, don't hire Walt Whitmans to write their convention color, and because our view of reality, both within and without the press, has become increasingly subservient to promotional images, we are less and less able to perceive politicians as they really are.

There has been a certain inevitability to this development. We have become willing to buy everything else by the package rather than by the contents. Why not politicians as well?

Perhaps if we had boycotted tail fins when they first came out, we would not now be faced with Spiro Agnew. But instead, we willingly surrendered our five senses to an army of account executives and ever since it's been one long forced march from TV dinners through McDonald's Golden Arches and on to Arbie's House of Beef and Richard Nixon--the first, no doubt, in a chain of franchised presidents.

It's said that there's a consumer's revolt going on. It won't amount to a box underfilled with breakfast cereal, however, if it doesn't spread pretty soon to the deceptive wrappings that envelope our political life.



Once, Richard Nixon was widely regarded as a sneaky little power-grubbing political viper. He got his start in national politics by spreading lies about his opponent, and rose in power almost directly proportional to his use of the most cynical and brutal weapons of politics. There was, and is, no purpose to this exercise but the further increase in the power of Richard M. Nixon. There has been no policy to espouse, no cause to push--the policies and causes expressed were merely shifting camp grounds on the hike to total self-aggrandizement. And so, for the second time in less than a decade, two hundred million people are pawns of a presidential ego that decides issues of war and peace, justice and injustice, hate and reconciliation, primarily upon the effect these issues will have on personal power. The only *raison d'être* for the first Nixon Administration is a second Nixon Administration and the only goal of that administration will be to hold power for the first Agnew Administration.

The media tells us that he is our president. Respect, honor, obey and re-elect. Anybody who gets to be president cannot be as bad as Tricky Dicky was. We are in the midst of an administration that has sold its soul and god knows what else to the largest assortment of big-money special interests since the halcyon days of Warren Gamaliel Harding; which is plunging us into an inflationary recession; which has pursued the most aggressive and overt racist national policy seen since the end of reconstruction, and which is engaged in a tenacious continuation of the most pig-headed military adventure of our entire history, and we are expected to give it free air time and throw the freaks who criticize it into jail.

The absurdity is compounded by the new reverence accorded a vice president who acts like Joe McCarthy would have if he had been smart enough to take a Dale Carnegie course. After Agnew's sudden and inexplicable appearance on the national scene, there was a brief resurgence in national skepticism. But it was quickly shattered when the Vice President warned that if people didn't start treating him right, he was going to take their microphone away from them. The subsequent alteration in the press's attitude towards Agnew has produced a journalistic avalanche chronicling with timerous fidelity the views of a man whose opinions closely approximate those that newspaper and television public service ads inveigh against during National Brotherhood Week.

NOT so long ago, being discovered to be a practicing politician was sufficient evidence to convict. As long as we considered our politicians scoundrels and dangerous men, we maintained a certain control over them.

Before the days of and-now-down-to-John-Chancellor-on-the-floor, Walt Whitman gave this account of the participants of a Democratic convention:

"The members who compose it were, seven-eighths of them, the meanest kind of bawling and blowing office-holders, office-seekers, pimps, malignants, conspirators, murderers, fancy-men, custom-house clerks, contractors, kept-editors, spaniels well-train'd to carry and fetch, jobbers, infidels, disunionists, terrorists, mail-riflers, slave-catchers, pushers of slavery, creatures of the President, creatures of would-be presidents, spies, bribers, compromisers, lobbyists, sponges, ruin'd sports, expell'd gamblers, policy-backers, monte-dealers, duellists, carriers of conceal'd weapons, deaf men, pimpled men, scarr'd inside with vile disease, gaudy outside with gold chains made from the people's money and harlot's money twisted together; crawling, serpentine men, the lousy combinings and born freedom-sellers of the earth."

The nature of politicians hasn't changed that much in the intervening years, but be-

We have learned over the last couple of administrations that giving a president more power makes us more the hostage of his moral health. While the divided powers conceived at the founding of the republic is a certain obstacle to the fulfillment of political genius, it is also a valuable impediment to epidemic corruption. We have, in recent years, steadily eroded the tripartite nature of our government until we find ourselves living under a system of constitutional authoritarianism with only an ever-weakening quadrennial check on its excesses.

If the press is going to continue to decline to make comments on the sartorial deficiencies of the emperor, then perhaps our last best hope is for a revival of the branch of government whose capitulation has done the most to create the overbearing power of the contemporary presidency. The reincarnation of Congress as a living, breathing participant in national government would not move us greatly toward perfection. It would, however, spread corruption around a bit, distributing it in such a manner as to permit at least a portion to cancel itself out.

There are signs--the Supreme Court votes and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's strong distaste for aid to Cambodia--that Congress will arouse itself before it is slaughtered.

But this Administration is out for everything it can get. The files of the Justice Department are beginning to disgorge themselves of the past sins of Democratic legislators and Mr. Ford is attempting to rid the nation of Justice Douglas, that most pesky and persistent defender of the Bill of Rights. The goal is not congressional morality or Supreme Court justices who eschew sex in favor of immaculate conception; instead this Administration seeks only more power.

Thus corruption is being pursued for corrupt purposes and the only result will be more corruption. One can hardly find fault with shipping a handful of congressional bindle stiffs off to jail, although it is worth keeping in mind that politicians are like junkies; bust one and the next day another will pop up on the same corner.

It becomes worrisome, however, when the pursued are men like Justice Douglas who tower above their indiscretions, and the pursuers are men like Richard Nixon who are eclipsed by theirs.

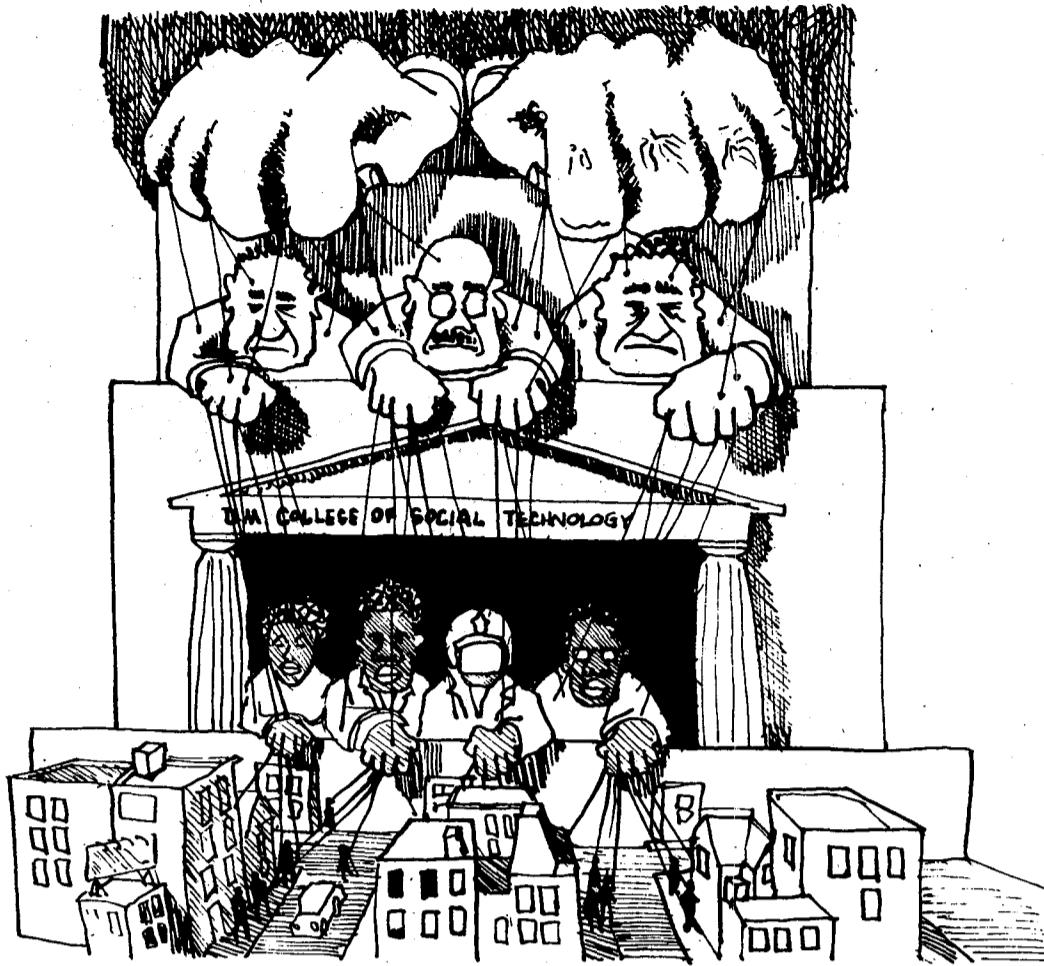
Justice Douglas lacks a public relations behemoth that daily shields his character from the onlooker, that creates a surrogate being more appealing than the real one, and that bullies its way into print and onto the screen to announce that Justice Douglas is concerned, Justice Douglas is considering, Justice Douglas prepared to take action, Justice Douglas conferred, Justice Douglas did everything a public man is supposed to do, whether he did it or not.

Justice Douglas is vulnerable. He stands there, the crevices of his character, like the canyons of his face, unflooded by the dams of public relations, and attempts to defend himself against a man who doesn't exist at all.

There is no Richard Nixon anymore. When he told newsmen at the end of the 1962 California campaign that they wouldn't have Nixon to kick around any longer, it was the truth. An imposter image took his place, a fluid fiction molded to fit the moment. The technology of advertising finally caught up with Nixon's fondest dream; it developed the capability to make him fully what he wasn't. Attempted without success many times before, Richard Nixon at last was able to be both everything and nothing; a spectre constantly shifting its form and place.

That the justice has warts should not detract from the importance of his battle with image of Richard Nixon. The result of his attempted impeachment may determine the future of the human being in American politics, whether we shall governed again by men or whether we shall elect only princes and be ruled only by frogs.

SAM SMITH

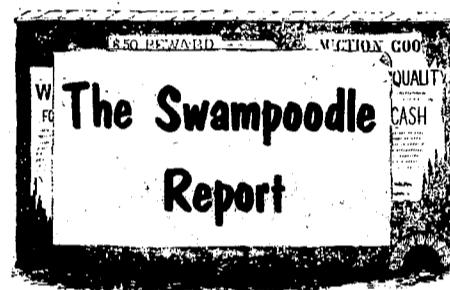


THE DC 9 will be sentenced on May 6 in U.S. District Court here.

CARL Rowen told it right the other day: "Spiro T. Agnew is a second-generation American who became a college drop-out because, as he put it, he paid too little attention to his studies. Agnew still had a route out of poverty, however, because he could go to law school at night. He did, graduating in 1947, but when he opened a law firm he flopped miserably. He wound up working in a food market. Then Agnew began to dabble in politics where he was a mediocrity until fate gave him two big smiles. A segregationist named George Mahoney won the Democratic nomination for governor of Maryland in 1966. Thousands of decent Marylanders abandoned the Democratic ticket and voted for Agnew as the lesser of two evils, sending him to the statehouse. Then two years later, when Richard Nixon was trying to keep his southern delegates to the Republican convention in line, he made what he thought was a secret promise not to pick any running mate who would offend the South. Spiro T. Agnew got the nod.

"So in the great American tradition, the poor son of Greek immigrants rose above his own laziness and ineptitude to capitalize on an assortment of breaks and favors to become the vice president of the United States.

"Now ex-college dropout Agnew goes around the country warning colleges not to give the benefit of doubt to the poor and the black who see higher education as their route out of poverty and nothingness."



I SUPPOSE I should explain my rather lengthy absence from these pages. It is not true that I got fired because my wife went to work for Mrs. Joel Broyhill. I have not been frightened into silence by sweeping spirosis, nor have I, as some have alleged, been hired by Commissioner Washington to run his new War on Progress program.

The sad truth of the matter is that I have been in jail, incarcerated for weeks following my refusal to submit to urinalysis after my arrest for flying a kite made out of old "Stop Illegal Drug Traffic" bumper stickers. I had meant no harm. I was merely trying to drum up a little business for the stack of Tasty Comix I was selling near my double-parked car in front of Pride headquarters.

I finally found a civil liberties lawyer who pointed out to the judge that the urinalysis law hadn't been passed yet. The judge looked sternly down at me and said that in the District non-prescience is no defense against the law. I didn't understand what he meant, but I paid the fifteen dollars anyway and am now once again a free man.

So much has happened since I've been away. A new Supreme Court nominee, a new recession, a new war. Shows what you can do once you put the trouble-makers in their place.

Not that everything's been running smoothly. For example, there's a report that Sam Starobin recently had a secret operation for removal of a bull horn from his arm. Doctors hope to transplant it successfully to Deputy Chief Davis so he can have a matched set. Gilbert Hahn and Walter Washington also have been having their troubles. They stood too close together the other day and got their strings all tangled up.

Then there was the demand for reparations from the Black United Front. BUF is insisting that the City Council give back to the black churches of the city the Republican ministers it has taken. And the United Givers Fund is hassling over whether to increase its aid to the inner city by granting

membership to the Federal City Council or by funding a preschool program at Judiciary House.

Phil Rutledge has announced that he is giving all these matters his full consideration so it should work out in the end.

That's all for now. Remember life's a bowl of dominos. Push one and you've pushed them all.

Sleep well tonight. We shall overcome. Even the tables down at Mory's are turning.

Joel Broyhill

Purveyor of split infinitives
for over thirty years

two six-packs to go

